NEW!

REVIEWS: 1:35 CHINOOK ■ 1:48 M10 TD ■ 1:35 'NAM DIO...

Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

www.modelmilitary.com

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'CHUTE TO KILL

A guide to painting Verlinden's Fallschirmjäger bust...

May 2006 / £3.50 / Issue 1

ADH PUBLISHING

IN THE FIRING LINE

Dragon meets Formations in Sherman Firefly showdown...

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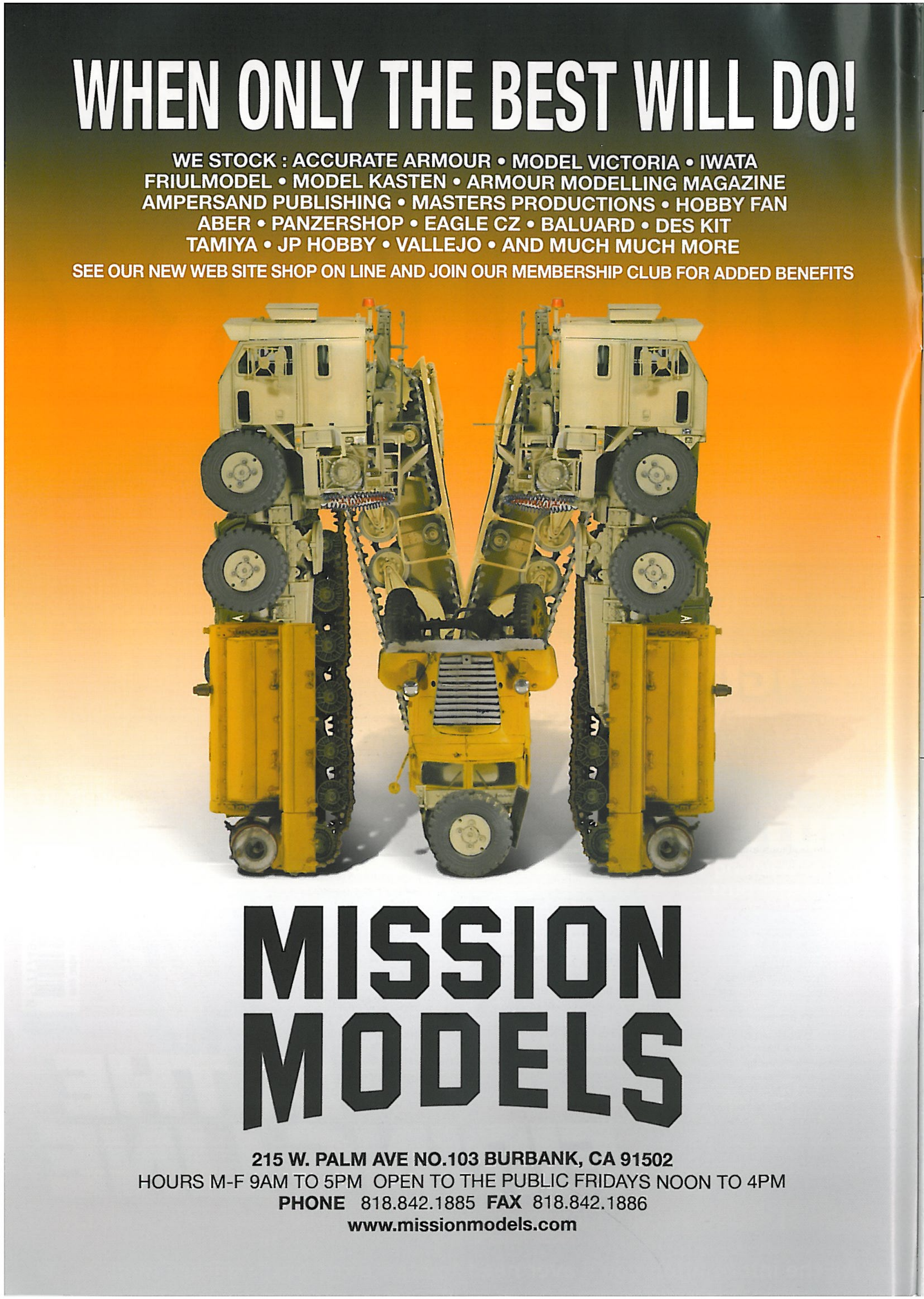
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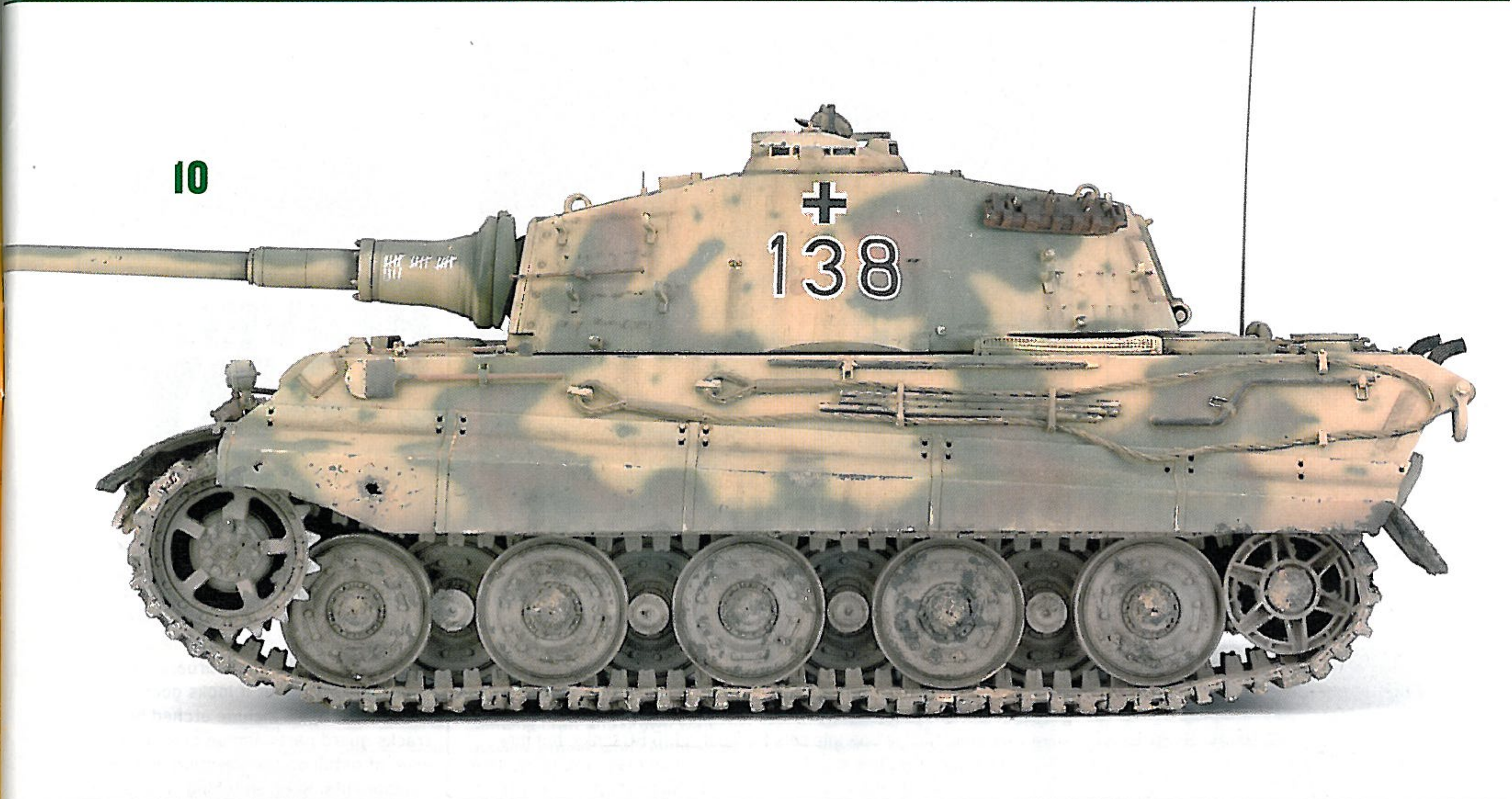

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A closer look than normal at some new figure releases

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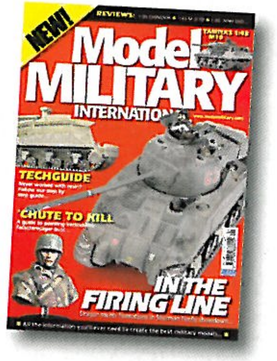
Nothing beats reality like reality, so here are some full size shots of mucky tanks!



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Tel: (UK) 01525 222573
Fax: (UK) 01525 222574
Email: enquiries@modelmilitary.com
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ISSN 1749-8864

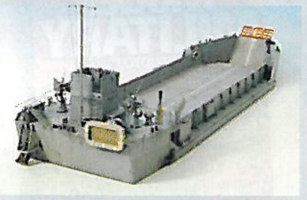
Diary Dates...

TORBAY MODEL SHOW
Saturday 27th May 2006
1-20 Torquay Town Hall
Open from 10am.
£2 adults £1 child/sen.cit
Contact Les Well:
01803 844977
wellzy_2002@yahoo.com

POOLE VIKINGS SHOW
Saturday 29th April 2006
Parkstone Grammar
School, Sopers Lane, Poole,
Dorset. BH17 7EP.
10.30am until 4.00pm
Entrance fees will be £2.00 for Adults, £1.00 for Senior Citizens and Children and Family (2 Adults & 2 or more Children) Tickets £4.00. There will be various trade and club stands, together with class competitions and a raffle. Refreshments will be available all day and Car parking is Free.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL SCALE MODEL SHOW
29/30th April 2006
Dewers Centre, Glover Street,
Perth.
10am until 5pm both days
Contact jim Gibb:
01738 441365
chai@scotnats.org.uk

PLYMOUTH PREMIER SHOW
Saturday 13th May
Main Guild Hall, Royal Parade,
Plymouth.
10am until 4pm
Contact Dave Watson:
01752 518287
spotandjoe@blueyonder.co.uk



New and on the way from Accurate Armour

1:76 British Landing Craft Flak Mk4 LCF(4), WW2 British 3.7 HAA Gun Mobile Mounting.
Also on the way in 1:35; British WW2 Loyd Carrier (Personnel), Loyd Carrier (For Towing 4.2" Mortar), British WW2 Trailer 10cwt (G.S), British WW-II 4.2" Heavy Mortar (Deployed with ammunition) Includes decals. 1:35 British 'X-Craft' Mini Sub (Waterline), 1:35 Japanese Type-A Mini SuB (Full Hull), British WW-II 4.2" Heavy Mortar with 10 cwt trailer (Deployed or stowed with ammunition) Includes Warrior Section vehicle interior (2005-Bowman radio & BGTI sights).

BRAND NEW HEAVIES

The German manufacturer Wecohe are known for their no-compromise upgrade sets for Tamiya 1:16 RC tanks, but now they have gone one step further and created their own full RC tank kits, in the significantly larger scale of 1:10. First up will be a Tiger I and King Tiger which will be availiable in three forms - a complete kit, a ready to run model and a ready to run, fully painted model. Sound and smoke units will be offered as optional extras. The models are all metal in a range of forms - laser cut aluminium, etched brass, cast parts, cables and more. They are big and heavy - the Tiger I weighs in at 45kg and the King Tiger a whopping 50kg!
Due for release in the autumn of 2006. **www.wecohe.com**

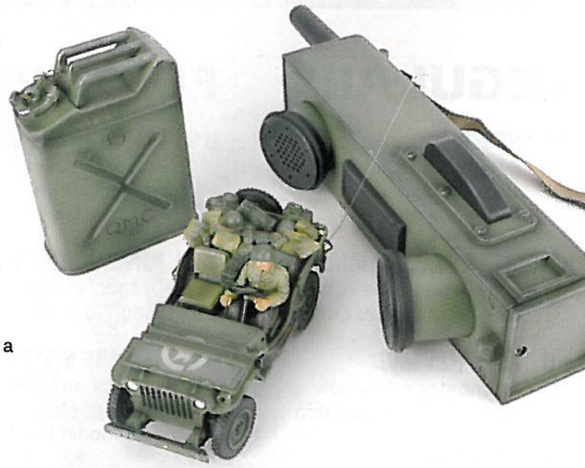
British Cruiser Tank A34 'Comet'
BRONCO

HEAVENLY BODY

Complaints often abound about the lack of British WW2 armour kit releases, but newcomers Bronco are to address this with the release of an all new kit of the late war British tank, the Comet. MMI had a sneek preview of test shot sprues back at the Nuremberg toy fair in February, and we can confirm that it looks good, very good. The kit will include etched brass tracks guard parts and an overall high level of detail on the injection moulded components. Keep watching this space for more news...
Also on the way; 28cm sWurfGerat 40 Auf GW H38/39 (CB35002), Befehlpanzer (CB35003), 7.5cm PaK40 Auf GW H38/39 (CB35004), and 10.5cm LeFH18(sf) Howitzer H38/39 (CB35005).
www.bronco-model.com
UK; www.hannants.co.uk

G.I. GO!

OK, it's only Issue One of MMI and we're showing you an RC model already - but it is a particulary cool one though, so we thought it worthy of inclusion...
It comes from Dragon in their Micro X Tech range and it depicts the classic Willys Jeep, the difference here though is that it's 1:35 scale with full RC!
The detail is excellent and to cover the motor and gearbox the rear deck is loaded with assorted GI gear, moulded as one component. The really fun thing is the transmitter and recharging batteries - the steer-wheel tranny is disguised as a miniature WW2 US walkie-talkie, with the mouthpiece as the steering control, the the recharge pack is a giant fuel can with a pop-off cap that reveals the power terminal - neat! All you need are six AA batteries and you're off!
Available in the UK from good hobby shops.
Distributed by Amerang Ltd.
www.amerang-group.com



UPGRADE YOUR RAM

If you enjoy chopping up Shermans to create entirely new versions, Formations of Tennessee have a real treat in store for you - their latest release provides resin parts to change Tamiya's M4 Early into the Ram II. The set includes a complete new upper hull, turret, roadwheels and more, all cast to Formations extremely high standards. It's a very cool model and we'll bring you a full review soon.
www.formations.com

AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE EDITOR

First of all I would like to welcome you to the first edition of Model Military International.

Our aim is to produce a monthly magazine based on the familiar and very popular style and layout of Tamiya Model Magazine. Model Military International will however be dedicated to all things military - basically if it has wheels or tracks, or has a direct supporting roll to troops in general, we will try our best to feature it within our covers!

Realistically, this means subjects from World War One to the present day, including battlefield helicopters, landing craft and brown water navies, but we won't ignore earlier periods of military history.

We aim to feature models built from the box, conversions, and resin kits on a regular basis. We will also include dioramas in all popular scales, along with technical guides and tips.

There will be a regular feature in every issue of large, clear useful photos of full size vehicles and equipment to help build up your own library of reference material.

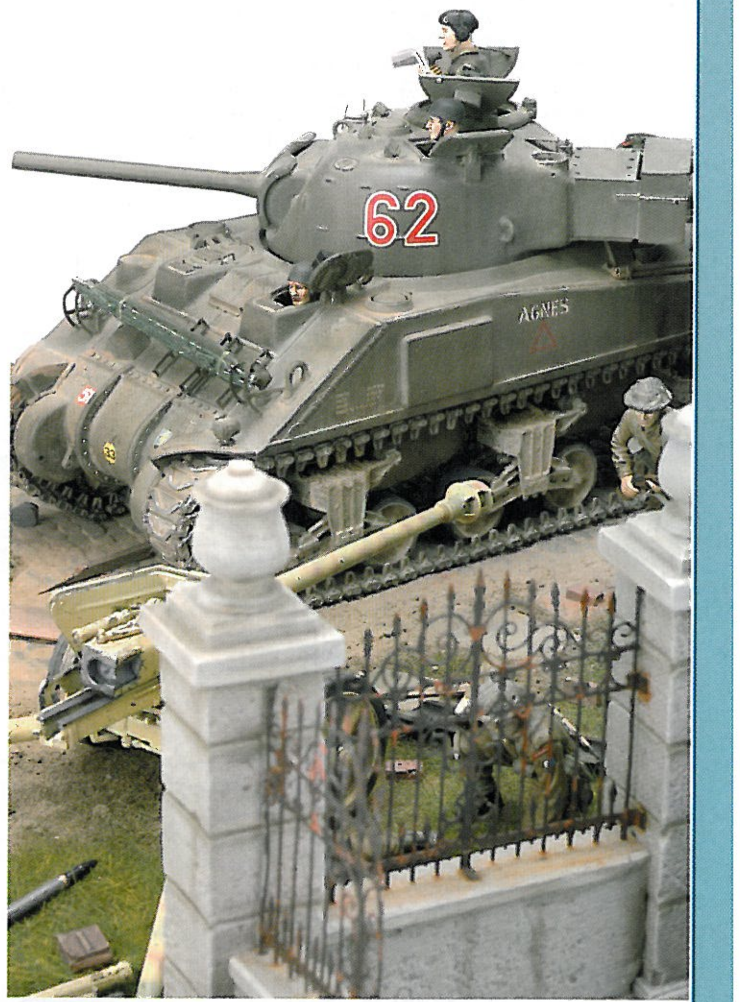
We will include a letters page where you are free to voice your comments and suggestions about our content.

Model Military International will cover the topics of new kit and accessory reviews, figure modelling, dioramas, old kits with makeovers, modelling techniques and historical features and more, with articles for all levels of enthusiast, from the beginner to the expert, and everyone in between.

The images on this page give a hint of what's to come in MMI, so sign up for a subscription now!

DEDICATED TO THE CREW OF XV179
On a personal note I would like to dedicate this issue of Model Military International to the crew of the Royal Air Force C130 Hercules shot down over Iraq last year, some of whom were former work colleagues and friends I have served with.

John Murphy



Newsline *Extra* - Nürnberg Show Report

Well I can't really complain about my new position as editor of MMI. No sooner have I got my feet under the desk, and I'm off on my first jolly overseas, sorry I mean business trip, to report on the worlds largest toy fair.

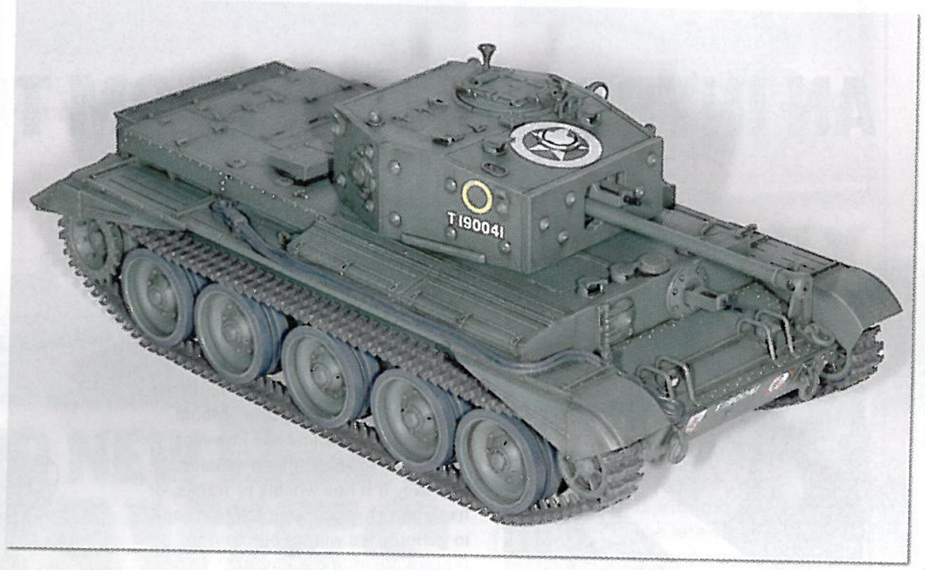
Having never been before it was the sheer scale of the place that was overwhelming. The fair is spread over 12 halls, each the size of your average Tesco superstore. Marcus Nicholls, TMMI's Editor, hinted several times a motorised mobility chair would be nice to get around on! Don't forget he will be all of 40 this year!

For me the best part of the show was getting to put faces to many of famous names in the modelling world. Meeting Mr S Tamiya was a great honour and fascinating listening to his opinions about the industry. I was also able to have chat with Mr Freddy Leung the president of Dragon Models and talk to some of his design team.

This year looks very promising with some really great modelling subjects being released. I know it's a bit of a cliché, but we have never had it so good in our hobby.

If I came away from Nürnberg with one impression it was how committed and passionate all of the people were that I chatted to who own, run or are part of the companies and business's that produce or supply the goods for our hobby, lets not forget it is only our hobby, but it is their livelihood.

Here's what we saw...

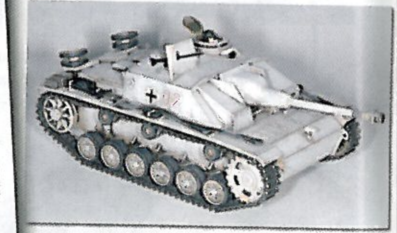

Tamiya's new 1:48 Cromwell every bit as good as it's 1:35 brother.

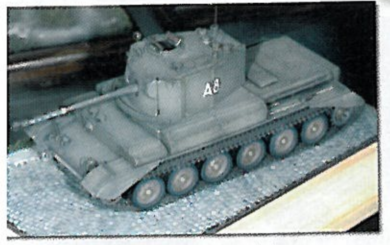
Nürnberg Toy Fair

Trumpeter's Re-armed KV-1 in German service 1:35

Trumpeter's awesome 1:35 Ch-47A Chinook.

Trumpeter's captured KVII in German service


Tamiya's all new 1:48 Stug IIIG


Extratech 1:72 WWII British Challenger

Tamiya's 1:48 SU-122

1:35 Sam 6 launcher from Trumpeter

Dragon's 1:35 Sd.Kfz 234/4

Academy's long awaited M3 Lee in 1:35

Trumpeter's shelf filling 1:35 BR-52 Locomotive

Dragon's 1:35 Sd.Kfz 131 Marder II

Trumpeter's Modern USMC Stryker in 1:35

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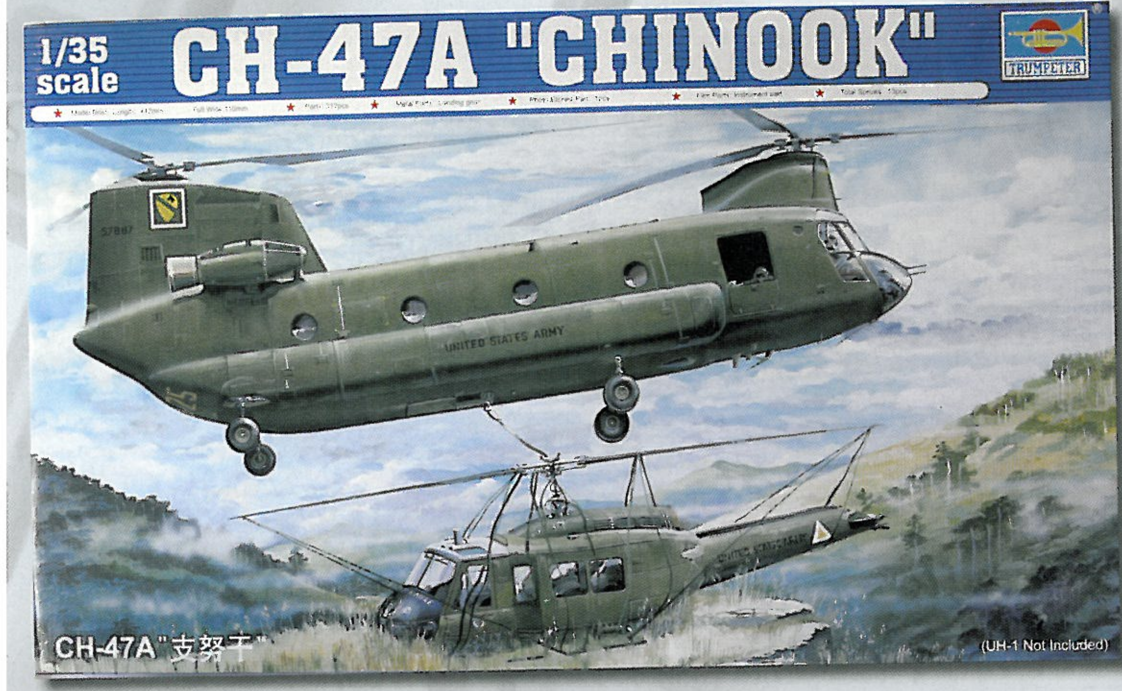
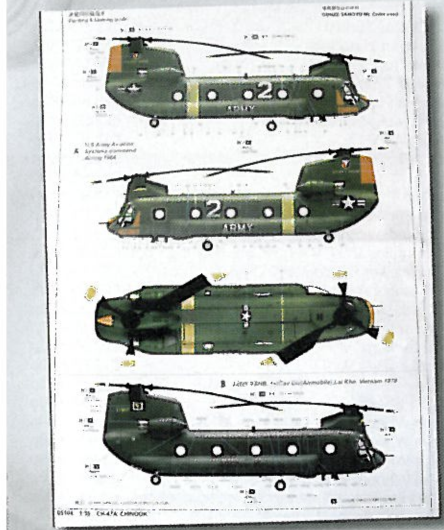


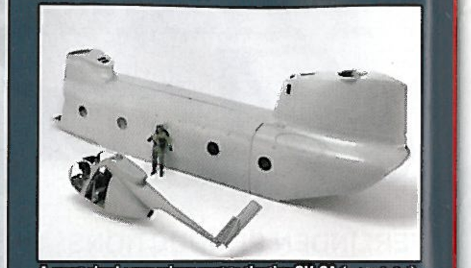
CH-47A CHINOOK

Paul Egerton previews Trumpeter's latest monster, the Boeing Chinook in 1:35...

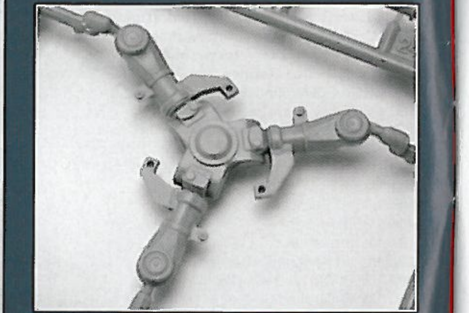
A very well presented kit in the trademark Trumpeter box with all sprues and other media parts bagged separately or backed with card to avoid damage. There is a 20-page instruction booklet, a decal sheet with markings for two aircraft together with a large colour illustration showing decal placement. Some 300 parts fill the box and ensure a level of detail that is sure to satisfy the most discerning of modellers but there is still scope for the super detailers. White metal and plastic undercarriage legs are provided with rubber tyres of different tread patterns for front and rear (it is probably advisable to use the metal parts as this is a substantial model!). Etched brass is included for the various grills and cockpit seat belts. The level of detail provided by the plastic is very good indeed. The interior sound proofing liners have been faithfully reproduced, as are all of the securing points on the cabin floor. The main instrument panel is made up from a sandwich of parts consisting of a clear plastic front panel backed with a printed acetate film providing the dial faces. Ancillary instrument panels have raised detail and the overall cockpit effect is nicely cluttered. The cargo area is a bare space with no seating, fixtures or fittings, however I'm sure that the aftermarket industry will soon fill the void, and there are more than enough suitable vehicles out there to fill the hole! The construction of the fuselage is interesting in that it comes in four pieces with the rear fuselage/pylon halves separate from the forward pair - perhaps this is an indication that later marks of the aircraft may make an appearance. Similarly, the side sponsons are separate hinting at possible special forces MH variants to come. Engine detail is very good. Both domed and flat fuselage windows are provided and the nose area is a single clear plastic part which removes the necessity to fit individual glazed panels into a cockpit framework with the attendant risk of damage - just a masking job here. A minor nit-picking gripe - the finish is given in Gunze Sangyo paint numbers with a generic description - FS numbers would be much better.

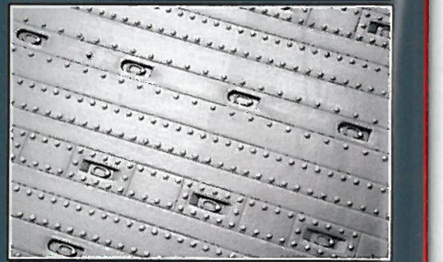
This is another cracking kit from Trumpeter. The level of detail and the variety of parts is superb and all has been very well engineered. Not particularly cheap but you get a lot of quality for your money and if you want a Chinook in this scale this is your only option. If you have any interest whatsoever in helicopters, buy this kit - you will not be disappointed. The only problem with it is where to stow the completed Vietnam diorama - we are getting to the stage with these monster Trumpeter kits where the display case will need to be the size of a greenhouse! ■



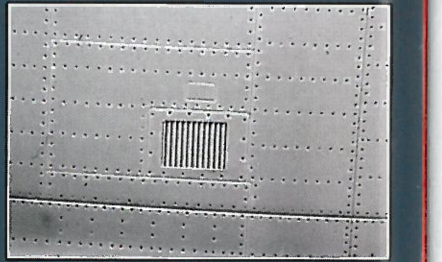


A great sized comparison next to the tiny OH-6A (not included)

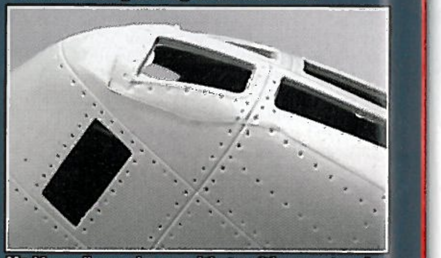




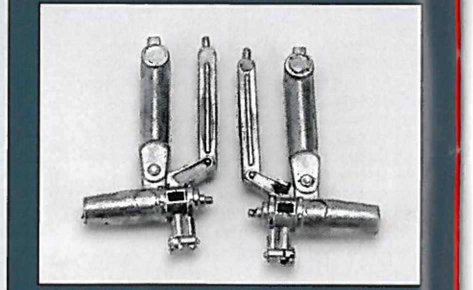
Nicely detailed freight bay floor featuring accurate tie-down points.



Fine rivet detailing covering the entire airframe.



Mould seam line running around the top of the rear rotor pylon.



Well detailed and sturdy metal undercarriage legs included.

05104 1/35 CH-47A"CHINOOK"

Clear acetate instrument bezel.

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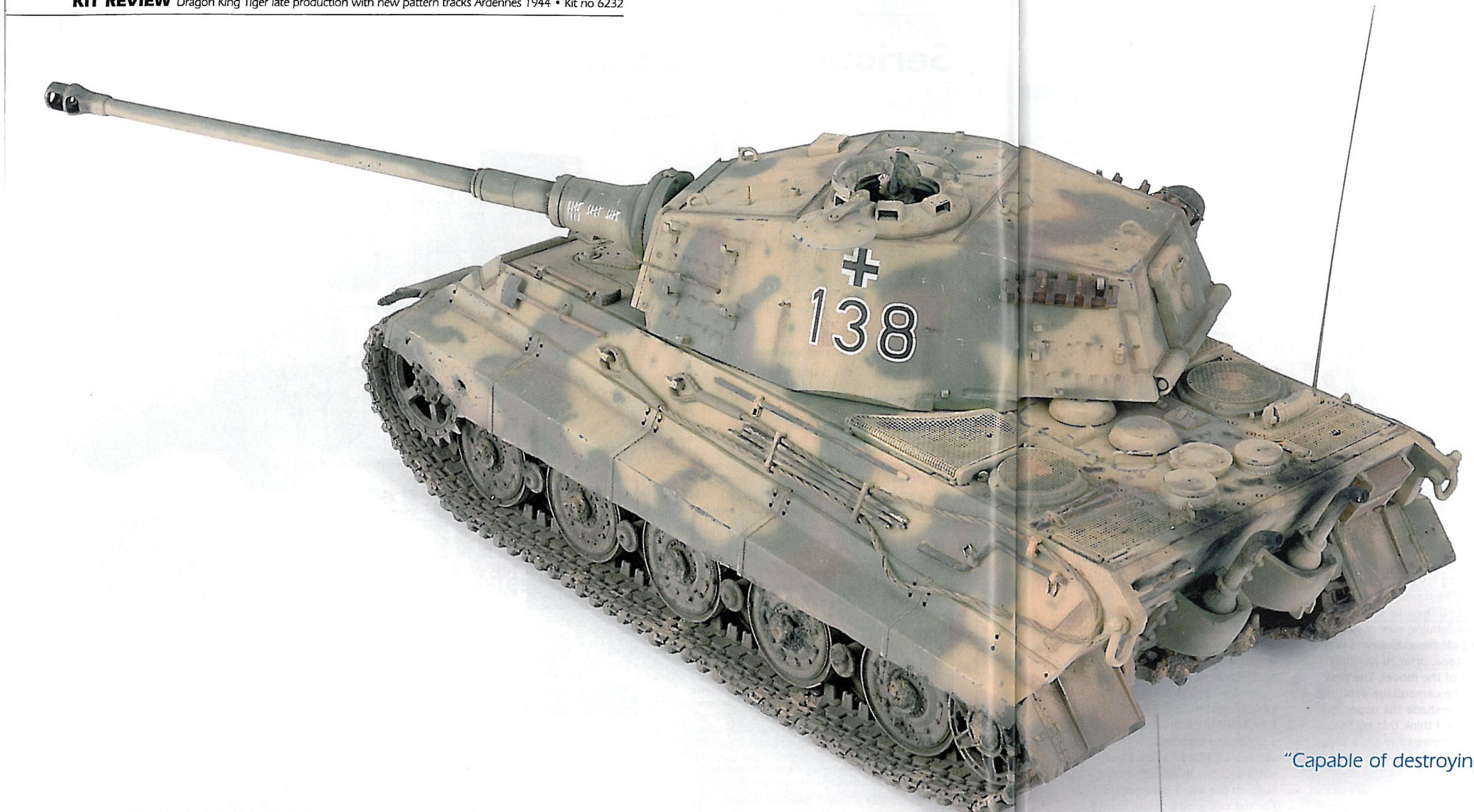


KING OF THE HILL

Pete Usher gets to grips with Dragon's Ardennes version of the infamous King Tiger.

The King Tiger was a legend of German armour during the Second World War, to the point were its abilities became almost mythical. It was a true heavyweight of the tank world, capable of destroying all US and British and most Russian tanks at ranges in excess of 2000 meters. With frontal armour of 185mm it was virtually impervious to return fire over its frontal arc, even when engaged at point blank range. Thankfully as with many projects rushed into production by the German high command during the war proved unreliable and completely impractical. The King Tiger or Tiger 2 proving to be no exception, it was underpowered and overweight, being too heavy to cross many of the bridges to have any real tactical use. With the long barrelled 88mm gun, manoeuvring in built-up or wooded areas could prove awkward without perfect coordination between a young and sometimes inexperienced crew. Its biggest downfall however, was the fact it was only produced in very limited numbers too late in the war to have a real influence on the final outcome.

IN THE BOX

The sprues are moulded in Dragon's familiar grey plastic, all the parts are cleanly moulded and contain some superbly crisp detailing, three of them contain the late pattern individual track links. Unfortunately Dragons new easy assemble 'Magi-Tracks' are not included with this kit. I was hoping Dragon would have included them as they really make track assembly painless compared to older style individual-link tracks. However there are some useful extras in the box to make up for this, a beautiful turned aluminium gun barrel, a small photo-etched brass fret for the engine grill covers and three-turned brass ammunition rounds. To top this lot off Dragon have also thrown in a nicely detailed set of German infantry figures wearing cold weather clothing, in fact pretty much everything you need.

I have recently built some of Dragons latest releases including the Tiger 1 and the Panzer IV Ausf E. Upon looking at this kit even though it's not old, it does have a dated feel compared to these later releases. This is not to say it is bad in any way it shows how the tooling advances have moved on in such a short space of time, it is still an outstanding kit and good value for money.

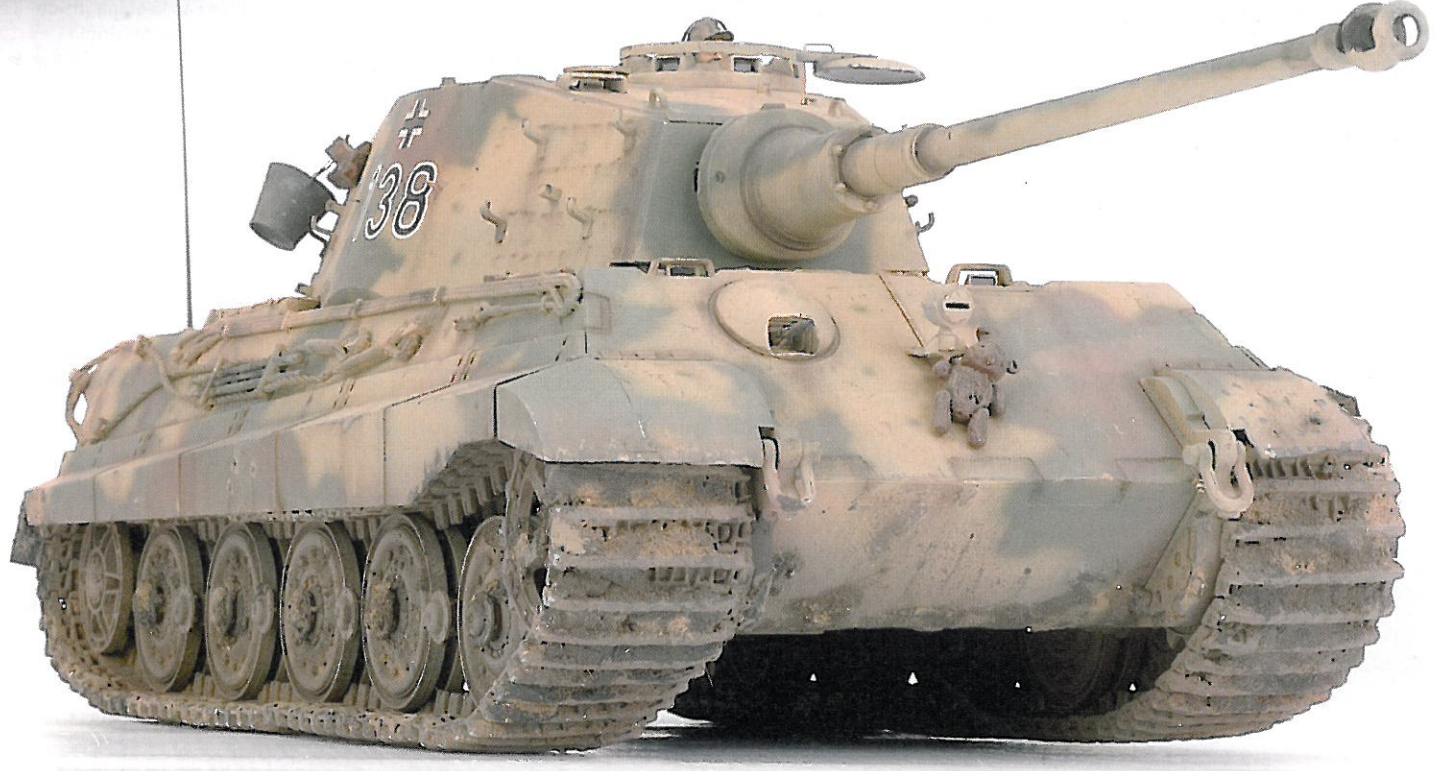
CONSTRUCTION

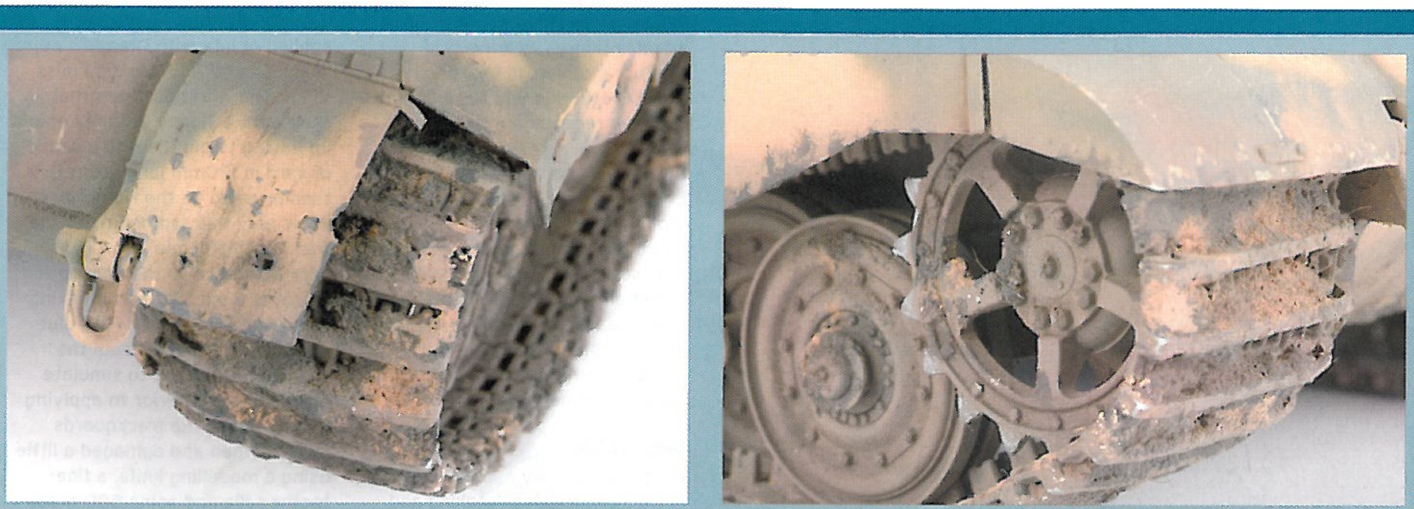
My aim was to try and avoid much in the way of extra detailing and build the kit out of the box for the most part, the only exceptions being some brass tool clamps and a length of solder wire for the headlight conduit. One of the good points from a building point of view is that the King Tiger is that it has very clean lines, (for a tank that is), without tons of fixtures and fittings. This makes the construction phase quick and simple, handy when working to a tight deadline.

As with most kits, it's running gear and tracks first, this is where I came across the only problem during the entire build, this being that of the quality of the tracks. It wasn't that they were particularly bad, it's just that I have been spoiled of late with Dragon's new 'Magi-Tracks' and boy did I miss them. The worst part was that they were a sloppy fit, and I ended up having to pin them to a peace of card in 120mm long strips. I then brushed on the Humbrol liquid poly this seemed to do the trick. But I still had a few gaps here and there so the only option now was mud! I set about mixing some building plaster, PVA glue and some trimmings from the end of an old brush to simulate blades of grass. Prior to applying this mud mix, the trackguards were thinned and damaged a little using a modelling knife, a fine-toothed file and some 500 grade wet and dry paper to give them a more lived in look. The lumpy mud mixture was then brushed over the main problem areas on the tracks, not forgetting the inside of the trackguards and lower hull. I left this to dry for twenty-four hours before joining the upper and lower hull halves together. With this stage complete the rest of the kit progressed smoothly without any problems thanks largely to dragon's clear instructions and how well all the parts fitted. It makes such a difference to my enthusiasm for the painting stage when the model goes together well making it a pleasure and not some form of punishment.

▶

"Capable of destroying all US and British and most Russian tanks at ranges in excess of 2000 meters"





Tech Tip!

To simulate the mud effect ready mixed household filler was combined with chopped up paint brush bristles and then stippled on to the running gear. Once dry the suitable mud colours were air-brushed on and finally Mig Production's pigments were applied in both wet and dry forms.

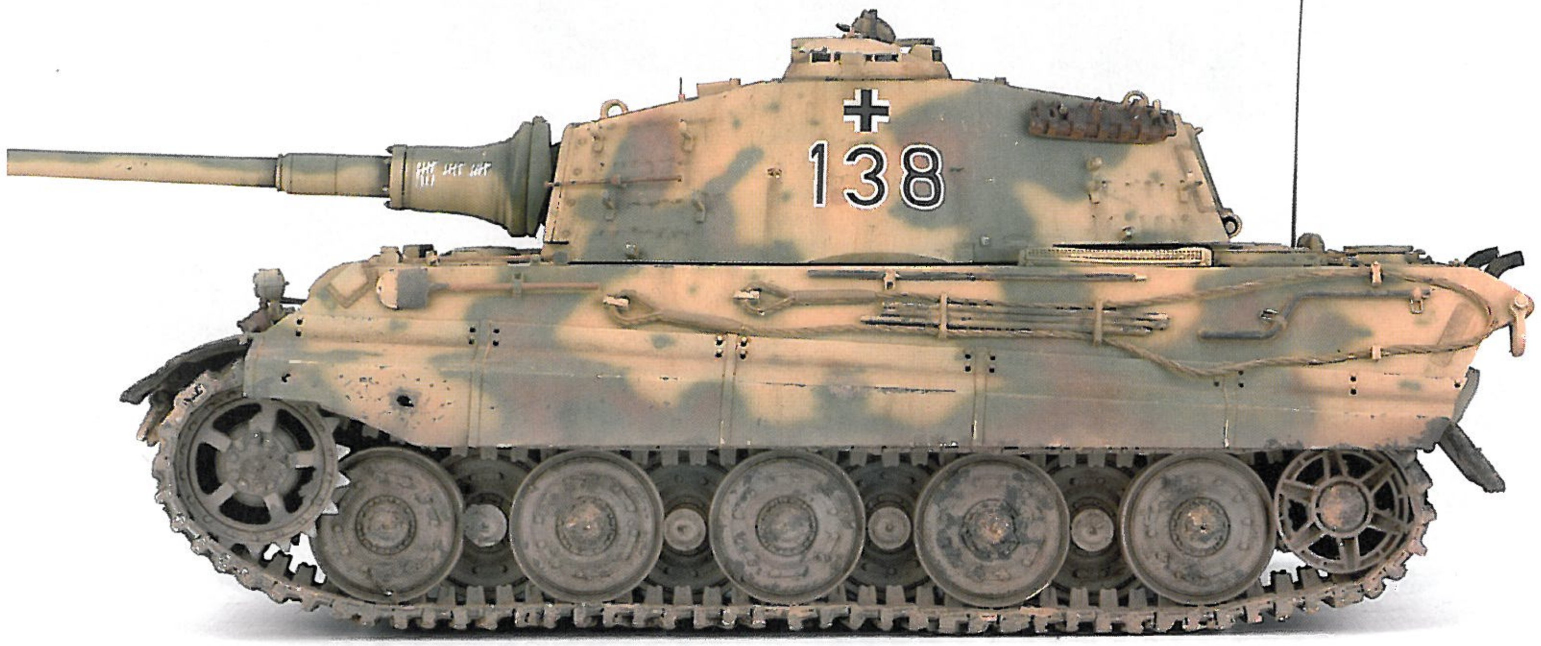
PAINTING

The first thing to do is get a surface coat of primer on the model to act as a nice neutral base for the camouflage colours. I find Halfords Grey Plastic primer is ideal for this. A little tip when using this product is to store it at room temperature before using it and shake the canister for at least 2 minutes. Wearing latex gloves is also a good idea when spraying, as this paint adheres to most things with great vigour, including skin. All this is best done out doors if possible, or at least in a very well ventilated area.

Colour schemes for King Tigers were varied to say the least, ranging from plain factory applied yellow right though to garish hard-edged ambush patterns. I have recently acquired a new compressor with a built in pressure regulator. With the extra control this offers I wanted to have a go at a complex three-colour soft edged camouflage scheme often seen on KTs. Before I could get my teeth into that though, I needed to paint the running gear first. This vehicle I felt needed a muddy appearance for a future diorama I had in mind. So the entire running gear and inner trackguards were sprayed with an 80/20 mix of Tamiya Flat Earth XF52 and Tamiya Buff XF57 thinned with Tamiya thinners slowly adding more buff to each successive coat, to simulate areas of both wet and dry mud.

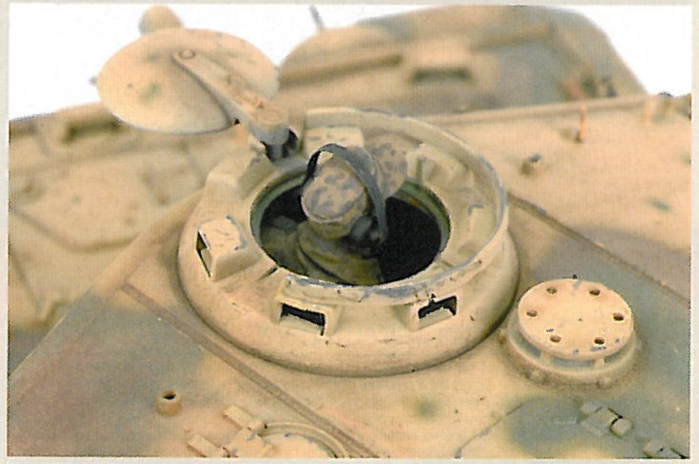
Following this I worked some heavily thinned black/burnt umber oil paints into the darker areas. After being left to dry fully, dry-brushed the running gear with Humbrol matt earth no 29. With the mud painting now complete I masked off the entire area with Tamiya tape, prior to painting the rest of the model. The first step in the camouflage painting was to pre-shade the upper hull and turret. I think this technique allows a degree of shadow to be reproduced without being too heavy or influencing the main colour. I used Tamiya Dark Green XF61 working it into every panel line and any angle or joint in the armour.

For the base yellow I sprayed on Tamiya Desert Yellow XF59 mixed 50/50 with Tamiya Flat White at 25PSI. After each coat I checked to make sure the shading hadn't disappeared completely, this way the shadow can be easily controlled for a really subtle effect. The camouflage pattern began with Tamiya NATO Green XF67 sprayed free hand using a fine line to first mark out the desired pattern. Each patch was then filled in carefully by using a scribbling technique with the airbrush. I didn't have a fixed pattern in my head, so I slowly built up the wavy green pattern. For the red brown colour I used NATO Brown XF68 this time just filling in small areas keeping inside the original green border until I was happy with the pattern. All the ▶

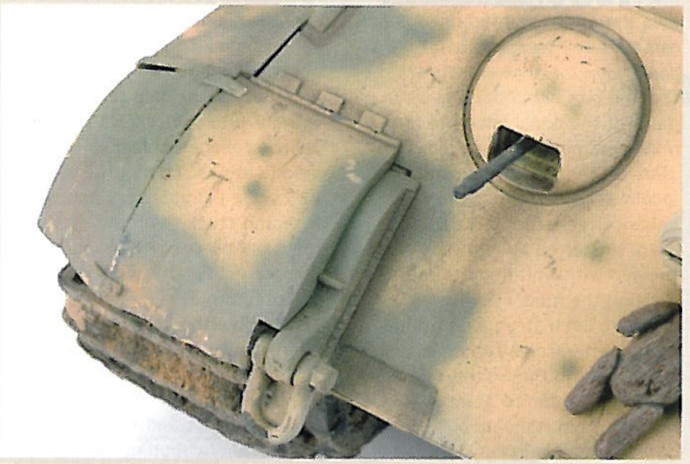


These very nice mesh screens are included on the small brass fret.

The author's Teddy bear adds that individual touch, creatively sculpted with Milliput.



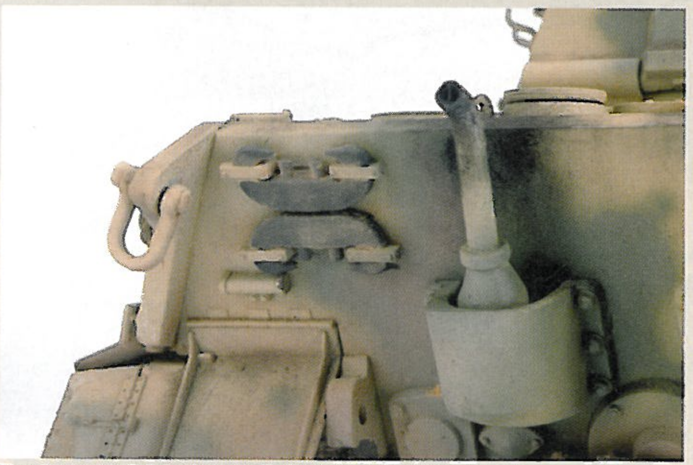
just visible are the cupola periscopes that come on a separate part to the actual cupola, making painting that bit easier.



Close-up showing the Kugelblende and front fender detail, none of which has needed to be improved by the author.

The Commander seems happy in the fact he is in charge of the most powerful tank to roam the WWII battlefields.

The metal tow cable supplied looks far more authentic than the string supplied in many kits.



The exhausts were dirtied up by appling Mig Productions' Black Smoke pigment.

With a gun this powerful kills would be notched very quickly as in the case with this example.

spraying was completed with an Iwata Revolution airbrush.

King Tigers didn't often display much in the way of markings, normally just balkenkreuz and turret numbers. The kit decals were perfect for my needs; first off I glossed the whole model using Tamiya Clear X22 in preparation for them. Once the clear coat had fully dried the decals were carefully placed on the model and the excess water dabbed off with a cloth before brushing on Micro Set And Sol decal solution, this makes the decals settle down to give them that painted on look and removes any trapped air. There's nothing worse than the silvering that can appear under the clear parts of the decal once the final matt coat has been applied. To start off the weathering some local washes were used to help enhance recessed detail using burnt umber oil paint, heavily thinned with white spirit. Before matting the model down.

I have been struggling to find a good matt varnish for some time but thanks to the Editor, I have been introduced to Xtracrylix Flat Varnish from Hannants. After a good stir and thinned with Tamiya thinners it works wonderfully, thanks Spud.

WEATHERING

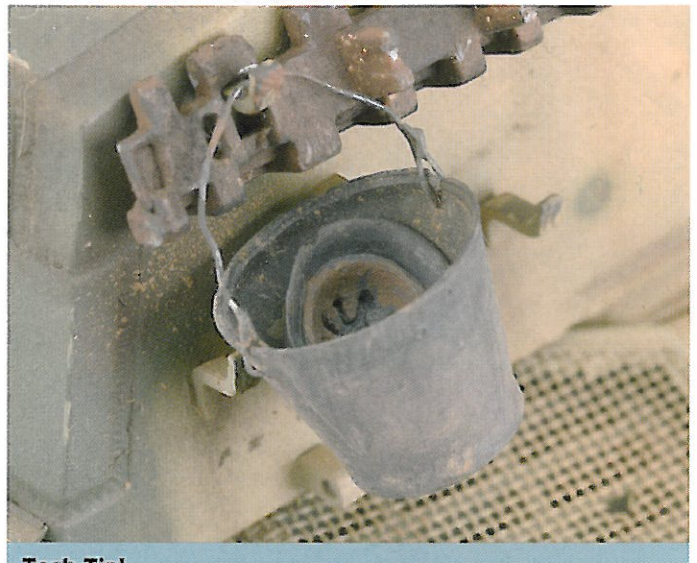
I didn't want to go too mad with the weathering so I added a few paint chips here and there with Humbrol Tank Grey 67. Crushed dark brown artists pastel chalks were worked into some of the areas for extra shading. A very sharp pastel pencil gives a nice dirty stain or chip. Small dots can be drawn on, then rubbed in the direction of the streak with your finger for a pleasing subtle finish.

FINISHING TOUCHES

As you can see the commander is keeping his head down. A figure can bring a kit to life; even one only peeking out of his hatch gives you that life, or help tell a story without lots of work. On the real vehicle foliage holders were field modifications. To recreate this in 1:35 scale I simply bent some fuse wire and stuck them on after all the painting and weathering was completed. Finally the bear was sculpted out of Milliput super fine just to give the vehicle a bit of character and that personal touch.

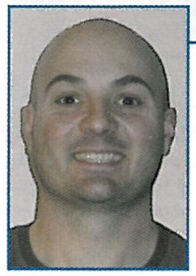
CONCLUSION

A very nice kit and of course as usual from Dragon good value for money. With a few simple modifications and a good paint job, one for the showcase! ■



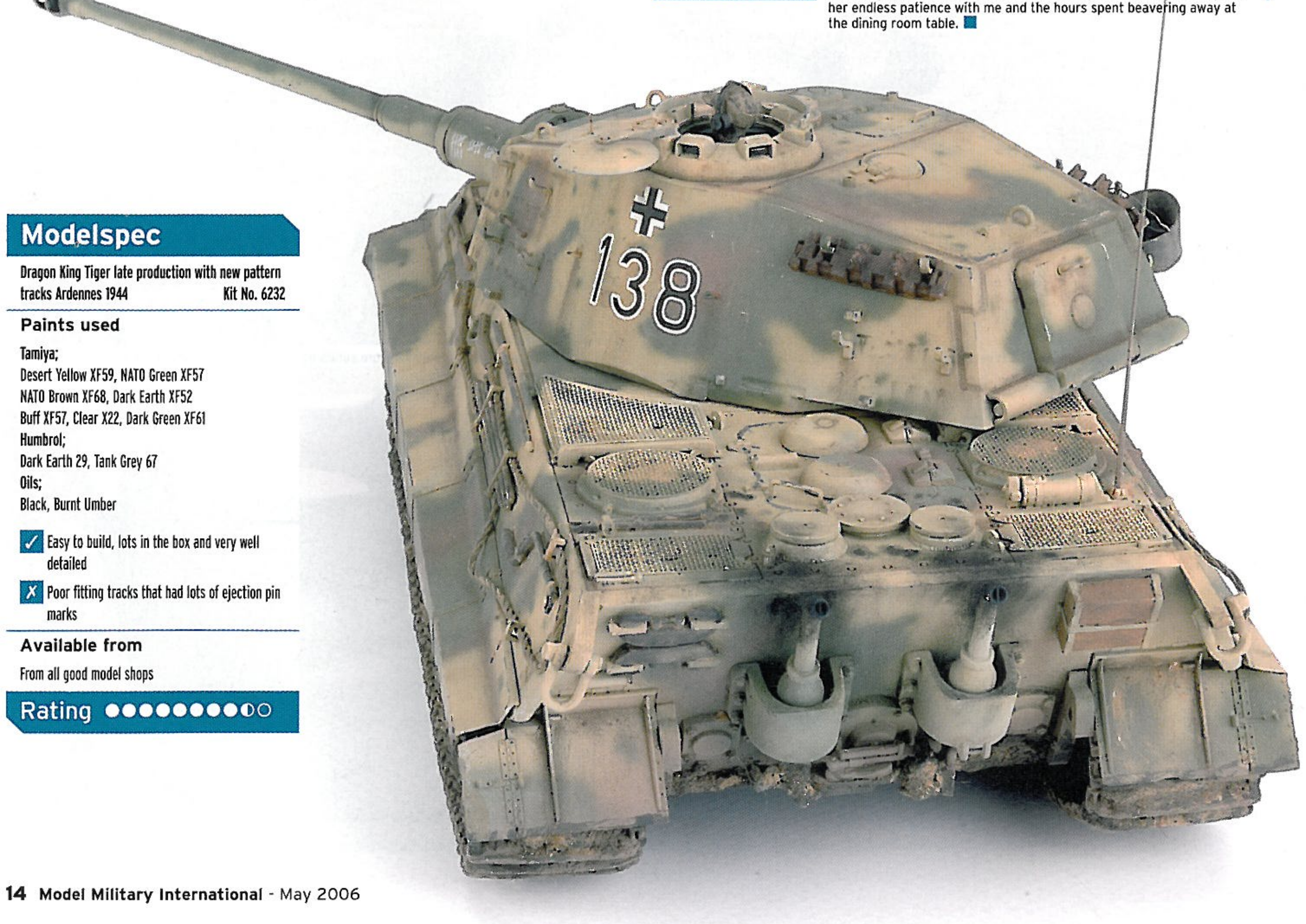
Tech Tip!

It is these personal touches that can really bring a model to life, even the ubiquitous bucket can play it's part. Often seen on military vehicles of all nations, for such tasks as maintenance or hygiene.



MEET THE AUTHOR

Hi my name is Pete Usher, but to most of my friends I'm known as XL (being 6' 4'). I've been modelling since the age of 9, I am now 36. Through the years I have built planes, boats, and figures, but my first love has always been armour, mainly German WW2. I was strictly an out the box modeller until I met Ian Midwinter by chance coming out of my local model shop in Swindon. I didn't know he made kits even though we had worked together for some years, as it's sadly not the sort of thing you broadcast in a car factory, I wonder how many closet modellers there are on the building sites I now work on? Ian, an outstanding modeller, introduced me to the world of etched brass sets and after market add-ons and with a trip down to Euro Militare in Folkestone, I realised what was out there and my modelling has gone from strength to strength. One other person to thank is my beautiful wife Carolyn for her endless patience with me and the hours spent beavering away at the dining room table. ■



Modelspec

Dragon King Tiger late production with new pattern tracks Ardennes 1944 Kit No. 6232

Paints used

Tamiya;
Desert Yellow XF59, NATO Green XF57
NATO Brown XF68, Dark Earth XF52
Buff XF57, Clear X22, Dark Green XF61
Humbrol;
Dark Earth 29, Tank Grey 67
Oils;
Black, Burnt Umber

✓ Easy to build, lots in the box and very well detailed

✗ Poor fitting tracks that had lots of ejection pin marks

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From all good model shops

Rating ●●●●●●●●◐○

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PLEASE ENTER YOUR PIN...

Individual link tracks for AFV models can offer the best possible realism, but they can also be fiddly and frustrating to build. **Marcus Nicholls** shows how to simplify one of the assembly steps, making up those darn track pins...

Here's what you'll need...

- Minidrill with a 3mm bit - 2mm or 4mm will work as well.
- Scrap block of wood, ideally about 60mm square and 30mm thick.
- Masking tape
- Side cutters
- X2 steel rulers
- Double sided adhesive tape
- Tweezers
- Cyanoacrylate cement, medium viscosity
- Cyanoacrylate activator

If there's one thing you can do to make a significant improvement to your armour models, it's replacing the standard one-piece tracks with individual link items. In almost every case (with some exceptions), a pair of tracks made up from separate links will look better than those provided in the kit box, and although it's often expensive, it can turn a good model into a superb one. The exceptions are where the track is almost completely hidden by armour and track guards, such as the Challenger 2, and in these cases the kit tracks work absolutely fine. For tanks that have looser fitting, fully exposed runs however, individual links are the way to go.

I am a big fan of Friulmodel tracks mainly because they are made from cast metal, and the ground contact points can be polished up to look very realistic. Also, Friulmodel's links are now assembled with metal pins and are remarkably strong, much better than their early clamp system. The wire for the pins comes as a roll, so you have to cut your own pins to length and this can be a fiddle. In this little technique guide I shall describe in pictures the system I have devised to cut the pins quickly and accurately, using regular tools and materials.

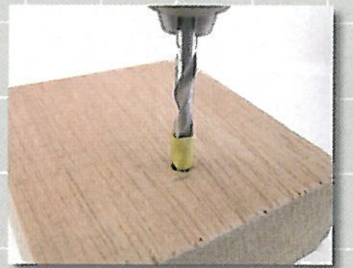
Measure the width of a track link and add 1mm to the measurement, then mark this length on the drill bit with masking tape. I suggest only 1mm because I have found there's not a huge amount of spare wire supplied in Friulmodel tracks sets and you need to conserve as much wire as possible!

Drill a hole into the wood block, taking care to get the depth just right. Take the roll of wire supplied with the Friulmodel track set and insert the free end into the hole, and snip it off flush with the top face of the block, using the side cutters. If the resultant pin is curved, use the steel ruler to roll it straight by laying the ruler on the pin and pushing it back and forth on a smooth surface while pressing down on the ruler - a clean cutting matt is ideal, and it will become perfectly straight this way.

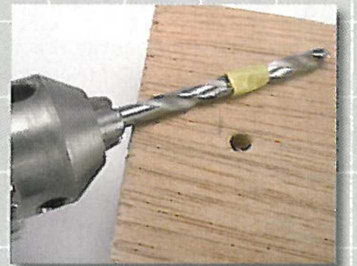
Make sure the pin holes in each link are clear - with most Friulmodel tracks they are but you may need to drill them out with a fine bit to clear any webs of metal. Apply a length of double sided tape to the spare steel ruler (or if you don't have a spare, a strip of flat, smooth wood, plastic or card will work fine) and begin assembling a few links using the tweezers - the guide horn is a handy place to pick them up from. Ensure the links are fully engaged, then pick up your test pin and insert it into the hole with the tweezers, pressing it all the way through. It should go in with little or no resistance, and leave the 1mm excess protruding from the side of the track. If you find you have more than 1mm of pin extending, you might need to re-drill the hole in the wood block slightly shallower - if the pin disappears into the track link, then deepen the hole slightly. Once you're happy with the pin length, you can begin snipping off track pins at quite a fast rate, and when the hole is full tip it out into a film tub or similar and carry on snipping!

Make up lengths of track, keeping a close eye on how many you need for each side, and secure the pins with a tiny drop of cyano glue applied with a thin piece of wire. After a quick blast from a can of activator, you can snip off the 1mm excess wire from each link and finish off with a light pass of fine sandpaper. Friul tracks mostly come in two 'handed' bags of links, with the cut end of pin hidden on the inner face, with a detailed track pin end facing outwards for full realism.

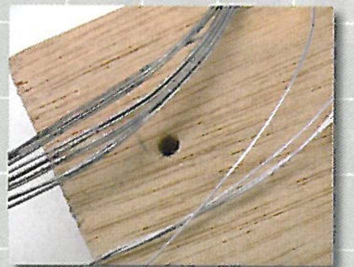
I find this method is quick and easy, and although you could cut each pin directly into the track links from the roll, cutting up a batch of pins allows each one to be straightened, not easy to do when working from the roll. For this demonstration I used Friulmodel ATL-04 tracks for the StuGIII, the recipient of which was Tamiya's new 1:35 StuGIII ausf.B, reviewed in Tamiya Model Magazine No.125. Happy track building!



With the drillbit measured out to the width of the track, a hole is drilled in a block of scrap wood.

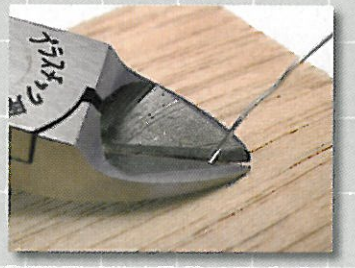


The hole needs to be drilled accurately to create wire track pins to a consistent length.



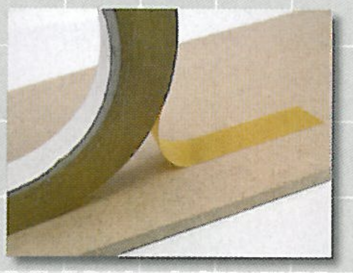
Friulmodel supply a role of malleable wire, rather like aluminium florist's wire.

The end of the role is inserted into the hole making sure it doesn't snag halfway down.



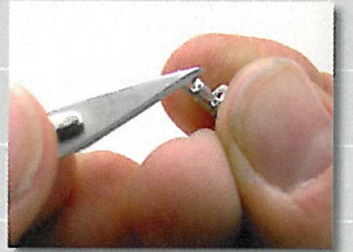
Tamiya sidecutters are ideal for cutting the wire to length. Make sure you cut flush with the wood.

After a few moments, you'll have a pile of identically sized track pins ready for straightening.



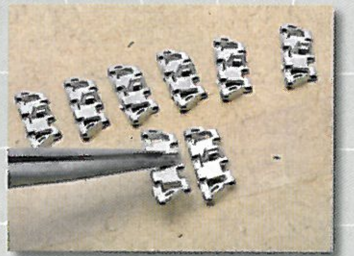
Double sided tape is very handy for many tasks in modelling, track building especially.

Friulmodel's cast metal tracks come almost ready to use, and are often 'handed'.

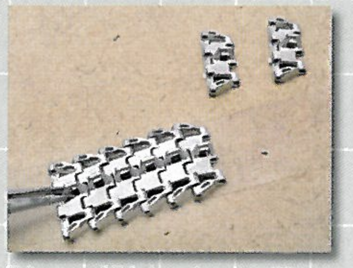


A few moments with a scalpel might be required to remove waste metal from the casting process.

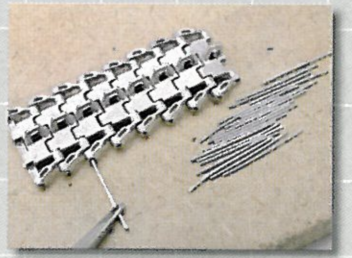
You'll soon have a pile of perfectly cast track links ready for assembly.



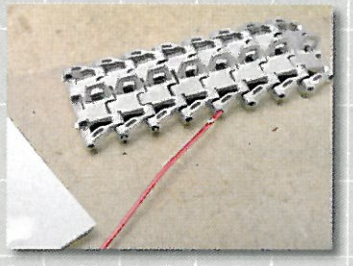
Using tweezers, a short run of links is assembled onto the double sided tape.



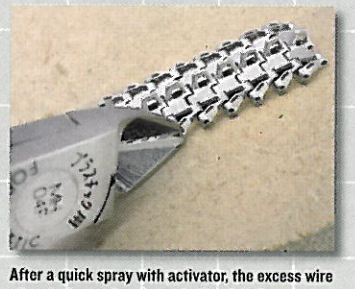
Make sure each link sits as close as possible to the next to ensure the pin holes line up.



Using the tweezers again, the track pins are inserted into the holes, making sure they go all the way in.

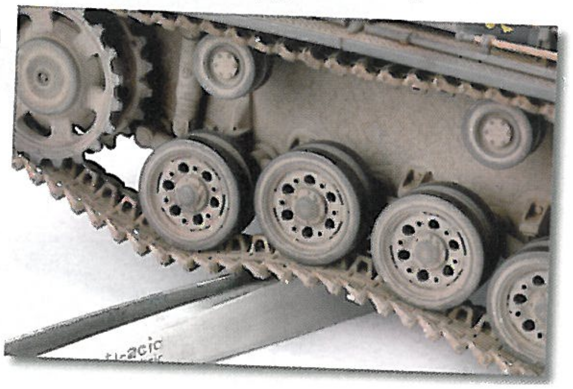


A very small drop of medium viscosity cyanoacrylate glue secures each pin without bonding the links together.



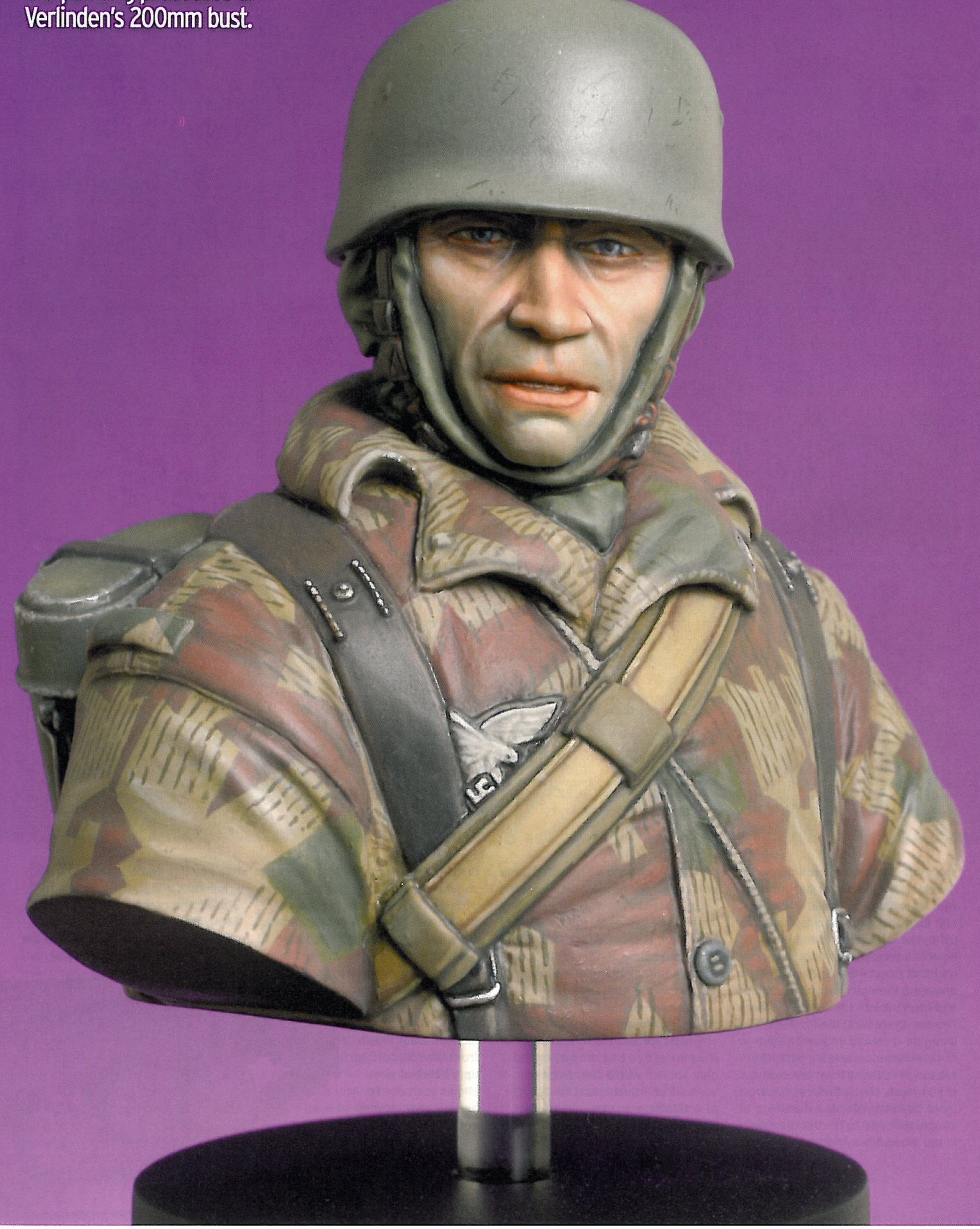
After a quick spray with activator, the excess wire of each pin can be trimmed off, using the ever handy sidecuttters.

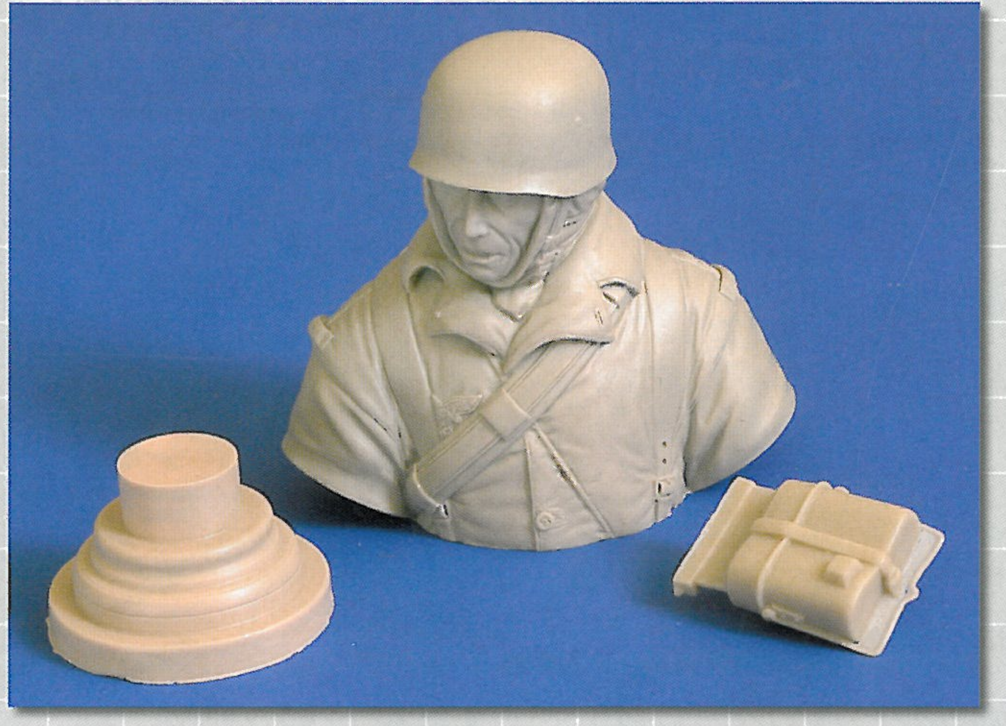
The tools for the job! Along with a scalpel or craft knife, your sidecutters, Swiss tweezers and double sided tape should always be to hand.



'CHUTE TO KILL

Fraser Gray describes in detail the painting processes of Verlinden's 200mm bust.





1. Verlinden's 200mm bust of a German Fallschirmjäger, Ardennes consists of only three parts, one of which is the base! The only work required is the removal of the moulding gates from the paratroopers field canteen. The bust itself is cleanly moulded with sharp detail.

2. I was not very keen on the display base supplied with the kit, which to my eyes seems small in proportion to the rest of the bust, I discarded it and decided to replace it with a cylinder of resin which I made by pouring car repair resin into a cardboard posting tube which has previously been wiped with a cloth dipped into butter. The butter acts as a mould separator and prevents the resin being absorbed by the cardboard and so making it difficult to remove from the tube. After selecting a length of clear Perspex rod for the support stand. I drilled a hole into the replacement resin base to fit the Perspex rod.

3. The canteen was then cleaned up. This was difficult to do as the resin is brittle and while removing the moulding gates, I damaged the handle. To repair the damage a new handle was fabricated from fuse wire. Other improvements have been made which can be clearly seen, contrasting with the kit's resin.

4. Further detailing was carried out on the leather straps. While checking reference books on German soldiers personal equipment I noticed some additional stitching and a rivet. The rivet on each strap was made with a Historex punch and die set, which is one of the most useful, if overpriced tools I have in my box. The stitching was made with stretched sprue.

5. For the purpose of illustration the field canteen has been temporarily placed into position with Blu-Tack. The overall detail and quality of the bust can be appreciated. The clear Perspex rod which supports the bust has been test fitted to avoid any modification of the finished miniature which could cause damage to the paint work. When every element of the bust has been test fitted, it is stripped down and washed in a bowl of detergent.

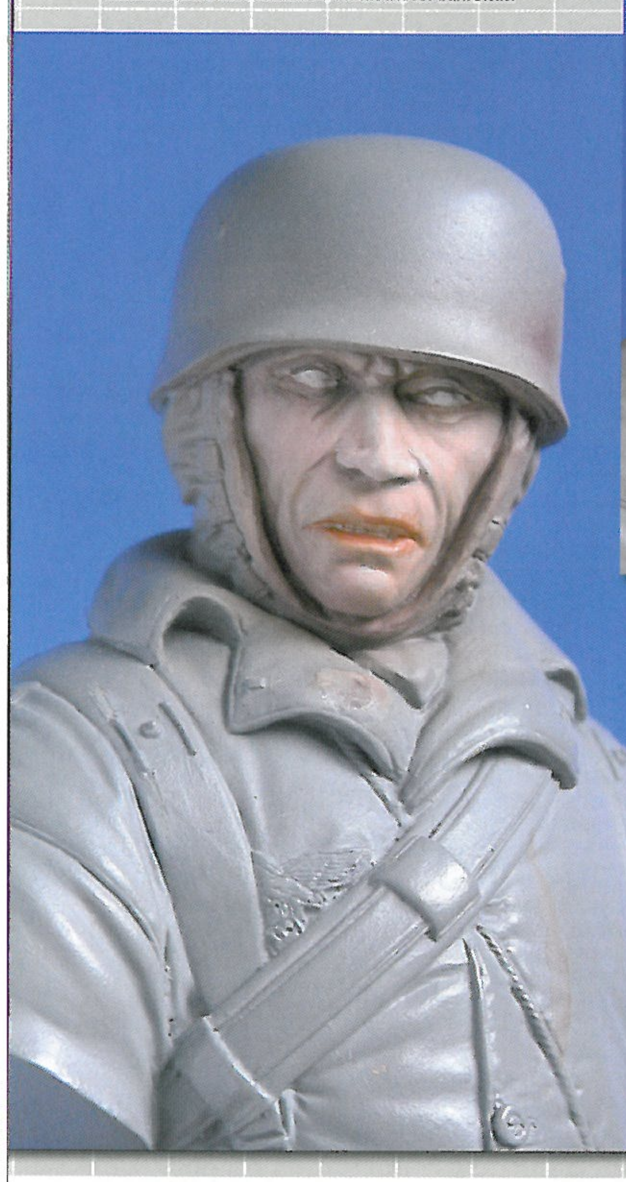
6. I always choose a grey primer to undercoat WW1 and WW2 figures, because it imparts a sombre tone to any paint applied. To begin the process of painting the face I airbrushed the face of the bust in a coat of Humbrol 61 Flesh. I then mixed a little Humbrol 160 German Red Brown into the airbrush reservoir and crudely blocked in the most obvious areas of shadow around the edge of the face. The next day a coat of Humbrol 61 Flesh was applied this time by brush. When touch dry, a blend of Humbrol 61 Flesh and 34 White was applied to all the high points of the face such as the bridge of the nose cheeks and chin. The paint brush is then cleaned and then dipped into a bowl of clean white spirit, and excess thinner removed on a clean cloth. Blending the different flesh tones can now begin. At the point of strongest contrast between the basic flesh colour and highlight, paint the area with a brush damp with white spirit and you will begin to liquefy the two flesh tones and blend them together over the stable base coat.

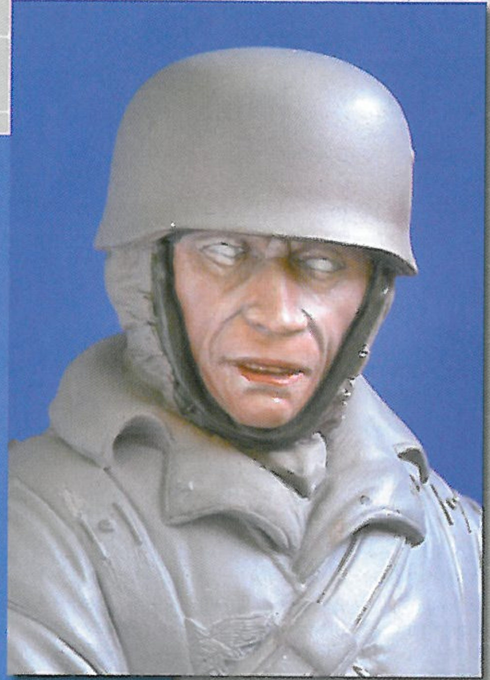
The story of the Fallschirmjäger and paratroopers began in the mid 1930s when the Soviet Union delighted in showing off its military forces to foreign visitors with spectacular air drops of parachute troops. Among the military attachés observing the exercises was a General Archibald Wavell who concluded that although the Soviet paratroops were an impressive spectacle they were of little military use. A German Officer Kurt Student, came to a different conclusion and was so impressed that he set about creating the worlds first modern airborne army, the Fallschirmjäger.

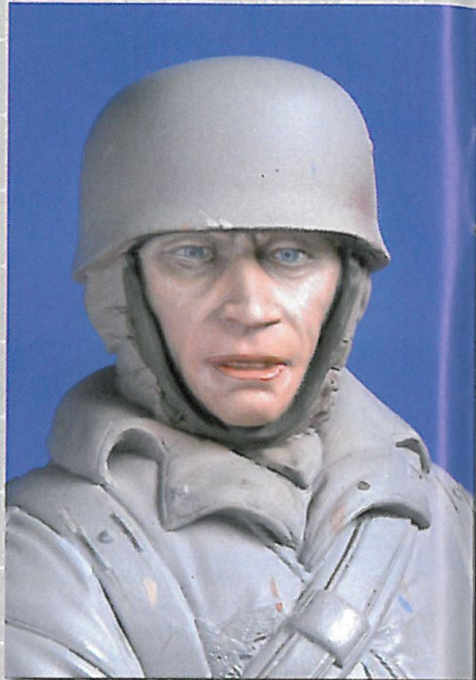
When war broke out in Europe the German paratrooper force were a vital part of the German 'Blitzkrieg' tactic. Transported by robust and reliable Junkers Ju52 transport aircraft, 14 paratroopers would exit the aircraft head first in a diving position automatically deploying the parachute on a static line, the descent lasting 30 seconds. The Fallschirmjäger were lightly armed with pistols and hand grenades, and once safely on the ground they would scout around for their heavy weapons, stowed in canisters dropped earlier in the assault. Landing from the air and with the element of complete surprise, the Fallschirmjäger were able to capture key objectives with light casualties. During the campaign in Holland Dutch troops were captured while they were eating breakfast!

Despite these victories in Norway, Belgium and Holland, Generalmajor Student was frustrated, his paratroopers were used rarely and only as support for the main assault on the ground. While Athens was being occupied, Student and his staff drew up their plans for an entire invasion by air of the island of Crete. Student plan, code name 'Merkur' (Operation Mercury), was to fly thousands of paratroopers and a small glider force from main land Greece and capture the three main airfields on the island, Maleme, Réthimnon and Iraklion. Once the airfields were secure, infantry reinforcements could be flown in and landed by sea. Hitler reluctantly agreed to the plan. No sooner had orders been given for the invasion of Crete to go ahead, Winston Churchill was reading them, thanks to the code breakers at Bletchley Park. This was the first time that Bletchley Park had warned of an attack on this ▶

7. With the basic highlights blocked in the shadow areas can now be worked upon. A blend of Humbrol 61 Flesh and 160 German Red Brown is mixed, and the shadow mix then applied in all the areas of shadow such as the side of the nose eye sockets and underside of the chin. When the shadow paint is touch dry, the mid-flesh tones can be painted using the same technique of liquefying the paint with white spirit to blend the shadows to the mid-tone, without any harsh edges. Further work has been carried out on the mouth area, this time by mixing Humbrol 60 Scarlet into 61 Flesh, with the harshness muted with a dab of Humbrol 25 Blue. The teeth have been blocked in with a mix of Humbrol 34 White and 187 Dark Stone.







8. All the different blends of paint and shading are beginning to come together. Further work has been carried out around the eyes, sharpening and refining the detail. The interior of the mouth has been detailed and each individual tooth highlighted and shaded were appropriate. This process of detailing and refinement can continue for several painting sessions until you feel happy with what you have achieved.

9. The eyes are one of the most important features to get right if you want a convincing and realistic face. When painting the eyes on larger figures or busts, I always have a mirror to hand to look at the detail in my own eye, and then try and transfer what I see to my work. Broadly speaking the iris, the centre of the eye, should line up the edges of the lips. Later on, I repainted the eyes because at certain angles, he had a cross-eyed look! If you are not completely satisfied have another go.

◀ scale and Churchill alerted General Wavell, the Allied commander in the Mediterranean theatre of the airborne invasion, ironically the same general who had witnessed the Red Army demonstration of paratroopers and doubted their usefulness.

Stationed on the island was a mixture of British, Australian, New Zealand and Greek soldiers under the command of Major General Sir Bernard Freyberg, who asked his troops to prepare for a possible invasion from the air. No further information was given to the soldiers to keep the secret, that the Allies had cracked the German high command's codes. Major General Freyberg knew to the exact time the airborne assault would reach the island. At 8am on the morning of the 20th May 1941, a clear calm day, a force of 500 Ju52s delivered 8,000 paratroopers into the skies over Crete. As the Germans drifted down they were cut down by rifle fire. Once the paratroopers had landed they were unable to reach their weapon canisters suffering further casualties. Student was devastated, and his airborne invasion of Crete faced catastrophic failure. There was one glimmer of hope, Maleme airfield. Hill 107, above the airfield was occupied by New Zealand troops. Cut off from their HQ, and isolated by pockets of paratroopers, the New Zealand troops retreated from their strategically important hill allowing the Fallschirmjäger to capture the heights, and protect the airfield from fire. With the airfield secure, Student was able to fly in reinforcements. The Allied command was made up of veterans of WW1, used to trench warfare, and were unable to deal with the new type of airborne warfare, and gradually surrendered ground. With fresh troops, and complete German air superiority over the island, the Allies were now losing the battle, and were forced to evacuate the island of Crete by sea.

The battle of Crete demonstrated the danger of using airborne troops, in spite of their courage and resilience, if the element of surprise had been lost. Churchill and Hitler drew opposite conclusions from the battle. The Germans lost over 4,000 troops one third of their airborne forces, and so Crete was the last major airborne assault undertaken by the Fallschirmjäger. For the rest of the war, paratroops were used as elite ground infantry. Churchill was impressed with the Fallschirmjäger, ▶

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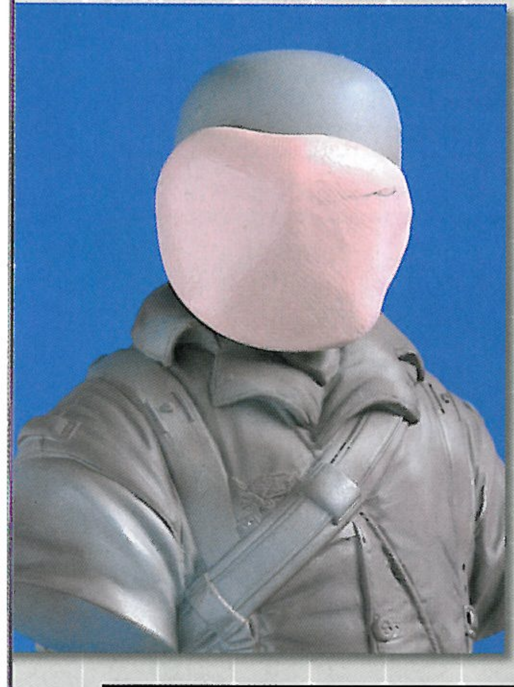
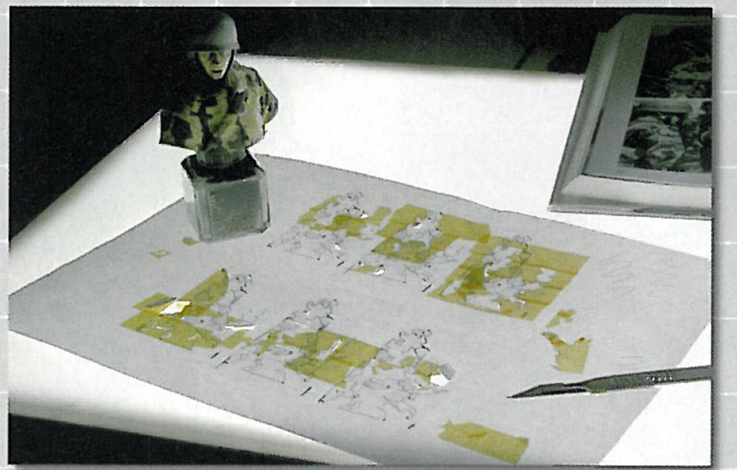
Tech Guide - FIGURE PAINTING TECHNIQUES

VERLINDEN PRODUCTIONS 200MM WW2 GERMAN FALLSCHIRMJÄGER BUST

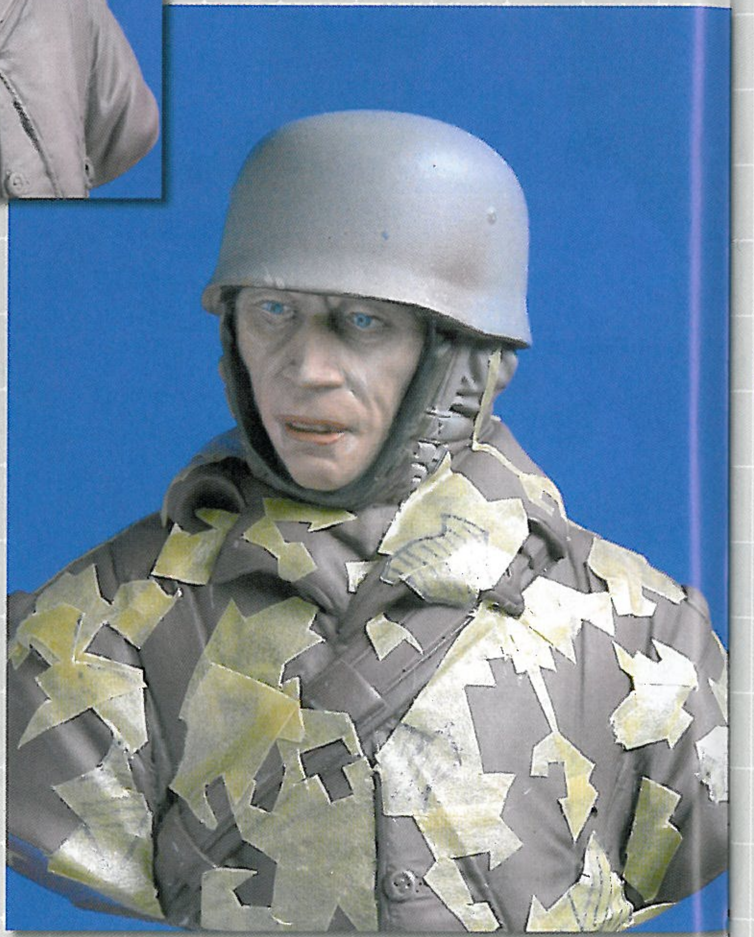


10. With the face almost completed I switched my attention to painting the jacket. The pattern was not random and was mechanically printed and had a precise repetition of shapes. To begin the process of applying the three colours of the camouflage jacket, the face was masked with 'Silly Putty" a children's toy, that has an excellent adhesion to painted surfaces without causing any residue or damage to the paint. The airbrush reservoir was charged with Humbrol 160 German Red Brown, and an even coat applied to all the jacket area. When touch dry, the areas of deepest shadow were punched in, by adding Humbrol 25 Blue to the German Red Brown residue left in the reservoir.



11. I consulted my reference books on German uniforms and looked at only photographs of German parachutists. Gradually I was able to draught an approximation of the camouflage, which I then reduced on a photocopier to the same scale of the bust. I feel I have a reasonable interpretation of the pattern, but it is by no means completely accurate. I printed off copies of my splinter scheme drawings for the red brown and green segments of the pattern.

12. I am often surprised when people complain that there are not enough articles about their particular modelling interest. There are always techniques, which you can learn about and adapt to your interest! Here I have used the reverse masking method to paint the splinter scheme, which I adapted from the technique used by aircraft modellers to paint the splinter schemes on Luftwaffe aircraft. The masks cover the red brown portion of the scheme in preparation for the airbrushing of the sand part of the splinter camouflage.



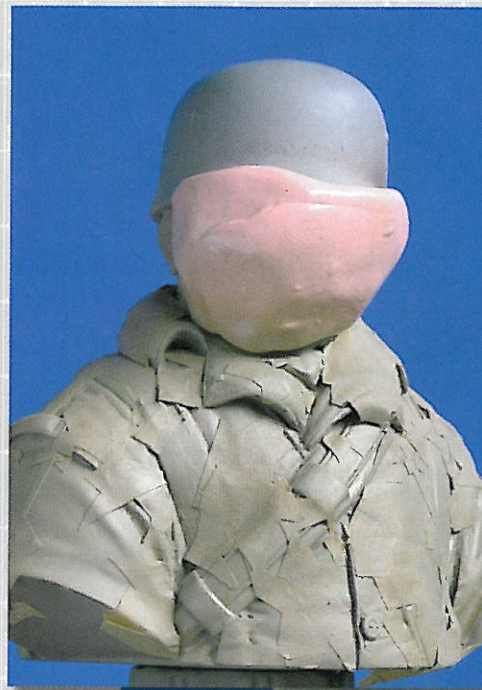
and called for the formation of the Parachute Regiment. Later in 1944, the 1st Airborne Division suffered heavy loses at Arnhem where the Regiment was almost wiped out. This was the only occasion that the Fallschirmjäger fought their British counterparts, and the German forces were under the command of Generalmajor Kurt Student.

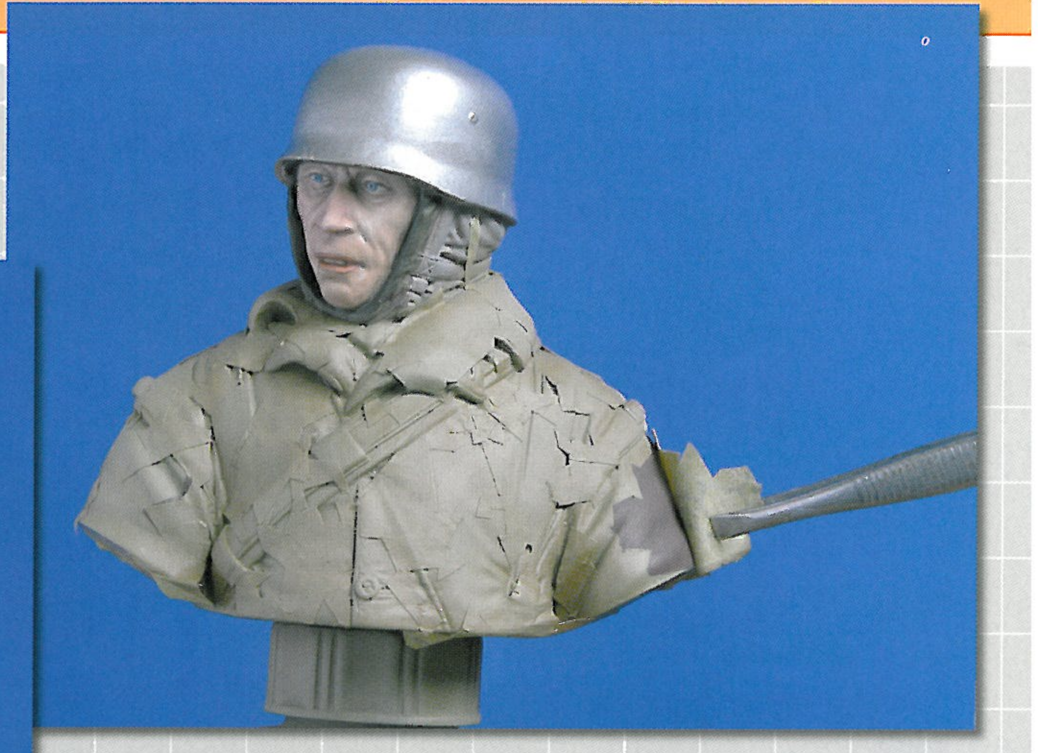
BUILDING AND PAINTING VERLINDEN PRODUCTIONS 200MM GERMAN FALLSCHIRMJÄGER BUST

Supplied in a Verlinden Productions standard camouflage style box, the 200mm bust of a German WW2 paratrooper has only three parts, one of which is the base. I soon had all the components cleaned up, and only experienced problems cleaning up the field canteen's handle which broke because of the brittle nature of the resin - it was simple to make a replacement from wire. There is no credit supplied for the artist who created the model, but I have learned from Adrian Hopwood that the bust was sculpted by the late Derek Holmes. Adrian is a friend of Derek, and knows his family well. Further examples of Derek's work can be viewed on Adrian's website; *www.adrianhopwood.co.uk*

I exclusively paint my figures in Humbrol Enamels because I have been able to get acceptable results in the difficult process of blending and shading with the paints. The drying time can be further extended by mixing in small amounts of oil paint, which does not seem to affect the stability of the dried paint. I have figures painted decades ago, using the technique and the painted surface looks fine to this day. There are a few problem paints in the range to watch out for. Humbrol's white and yellow paint are difficult to paint with a brush, if I have to use these colours, I thoroughly mix the tinlet's contents and use an airbrush for application. Do not try to darken Humbrol paints with Black 33. This results in an unpleasant dark brown colour no matter what the colour is mixed with! I have tried to use acrylics, but the quick drying nature has caused me problems so I have stuck with the paint that I feel most comfortable with.

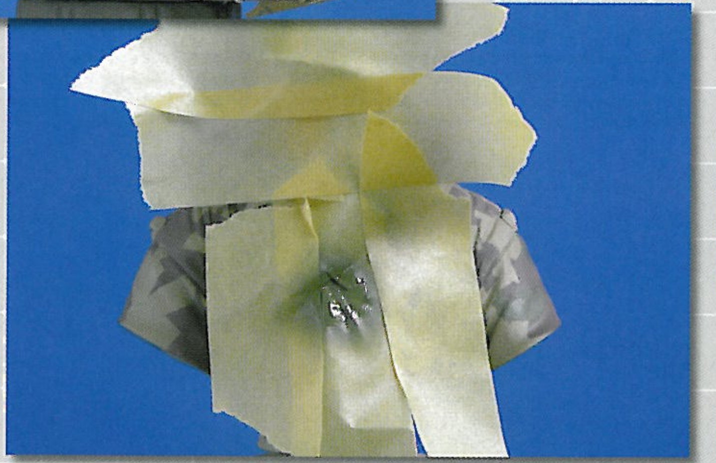
Although not as recommended by Humbrol, I don't stir my paints when painting figures. I decant the pigment sludge to a white ceramic tile, and mix with a little white spirit and then brush paint the model.

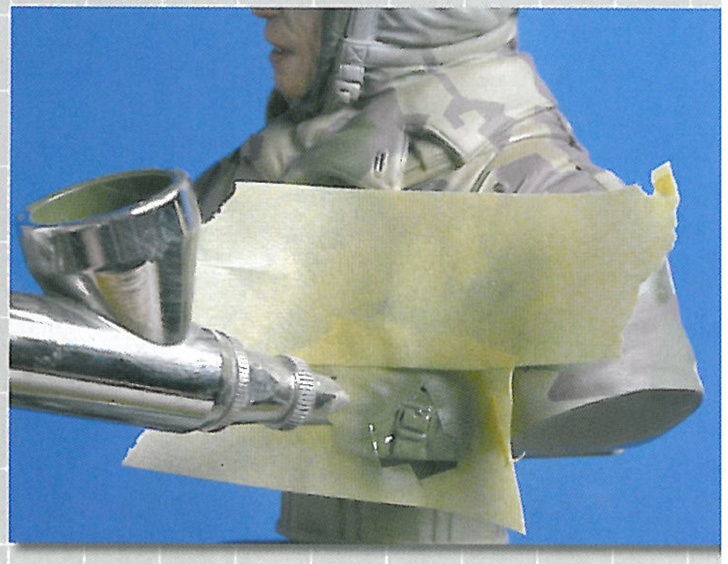




13. The airbrush was charged with Humbrol 93 Desert Yellow. The best results are achieved with several light coats allowing the opacity to build up. A heavy single coat can creep beneath the mask requiring extra retouching or paint will build up against the masking tape causing a ridge. The face has once again been protected from over spray with a wedge of 'Silly Putty'

14. I left the paint to thoroughly dry overnight and harden. Now the exciting part of removing the stencils to reveal the red brown segments of the camouflage scheme. I gently lifted a corner of each stencil with a scalpel blade then removed it with a pair of tweezers. The results were good, and I only had a few areas that needed to be retouched.





15. I painted the green part of the camouflage using the stencil method of masking. Once the stencil was in position all the surrounding area was masked with Tamiya Masking tape to prevent any over spray. I gradually moved round the figure until all the green portions of the splinter scheme had been completed.

The initial undercoat is left to thoroughly cure, in preparation for the next painting procedure. I then apply the same basic colour and wait for the second coat to become touch dry, usually after about five minutes. I then paint the highlights, by lightening the base colour by generally adding white, although this would be inappropriate for highlighting a red base coat, in which case I would use a small amount of yellow pigment. The highlights are painted onto the top of each crease. When the highlights have become touch dry, shading can now begin, by using a paint brush moistened with white spirit you can re-liquefy, and blend the two colours, folding and blending the paint to create a gradual transition from the highlight, to the base colour. The final stage is adding the shadow areas which have to be blended with great care. If you add too many shadows the darker colour can contaminate the base colour and even extend into the highlighted areas. If this occurs a dull and lifeless appearance will result. Humbrol matt paints do have a very slight texture when compared to acrylics. This has caused problems for aircraft modellers, when applying decals to a Humbrol painted surface because small pockets of air trapped between the paint particles causes 'silvering' underneath the decals. The texture also has a tendency to soak up flat varnish. I have overcome this problem by borrowing an aircraft modelling technique, by airbrushing a coat of Johnson Wax Klear acrylic floor varnish onto the model. This provides a smooth glass like covering, which protects the paint work and provides a non-absorbent surface for an acrylic flat varnish. I have used this technique for decades and have not noticed any instability in the painted surface of my older models.

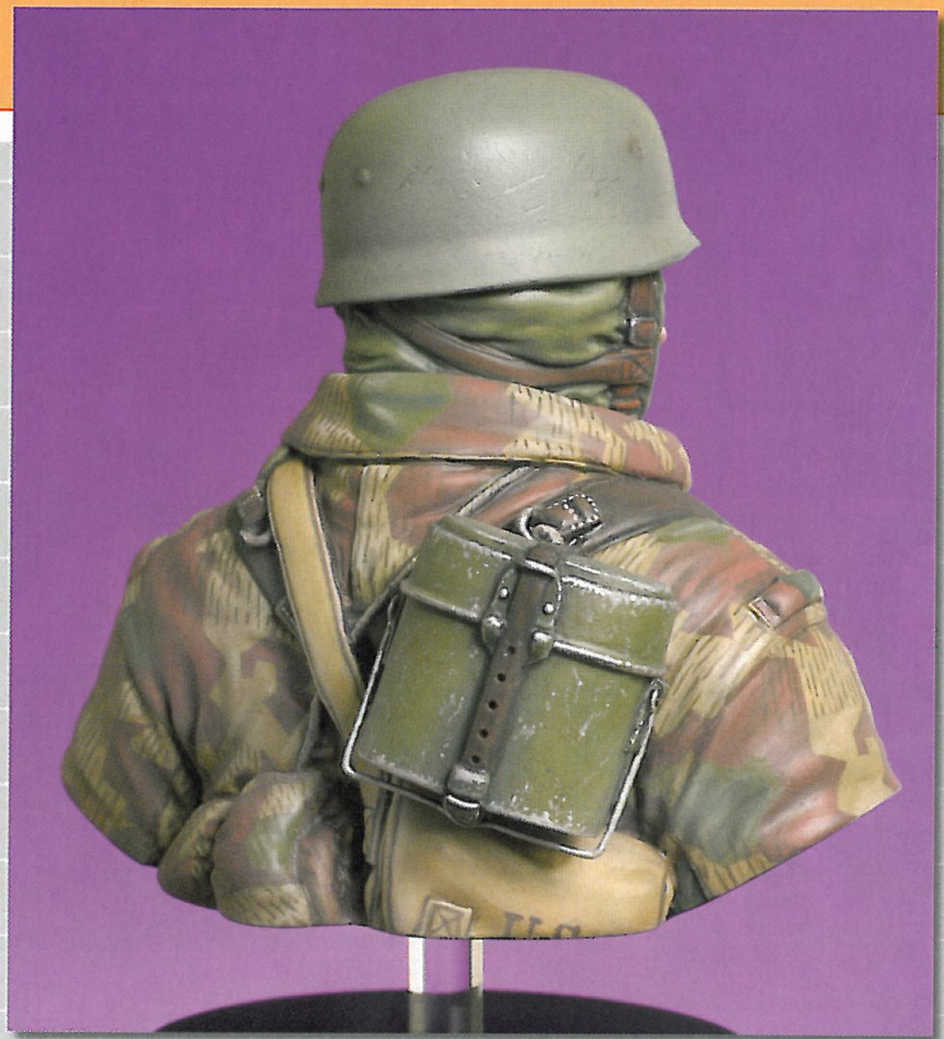
I painted the metallic parts of my models with acrylics. I have encountered a problem with the finely ground pigments of Humbrol's metallic paint, which tends to leach into any adjacent colour, if the paint has not been allowed to cure for at least two weeks. It seems the varnish in which Humbrol have suspended the metallic pigment, never seems to completely harden, and can re-liquefy, if a spirit based flat varnish, or washes, are applied over their metallic paints, with disastrous results.

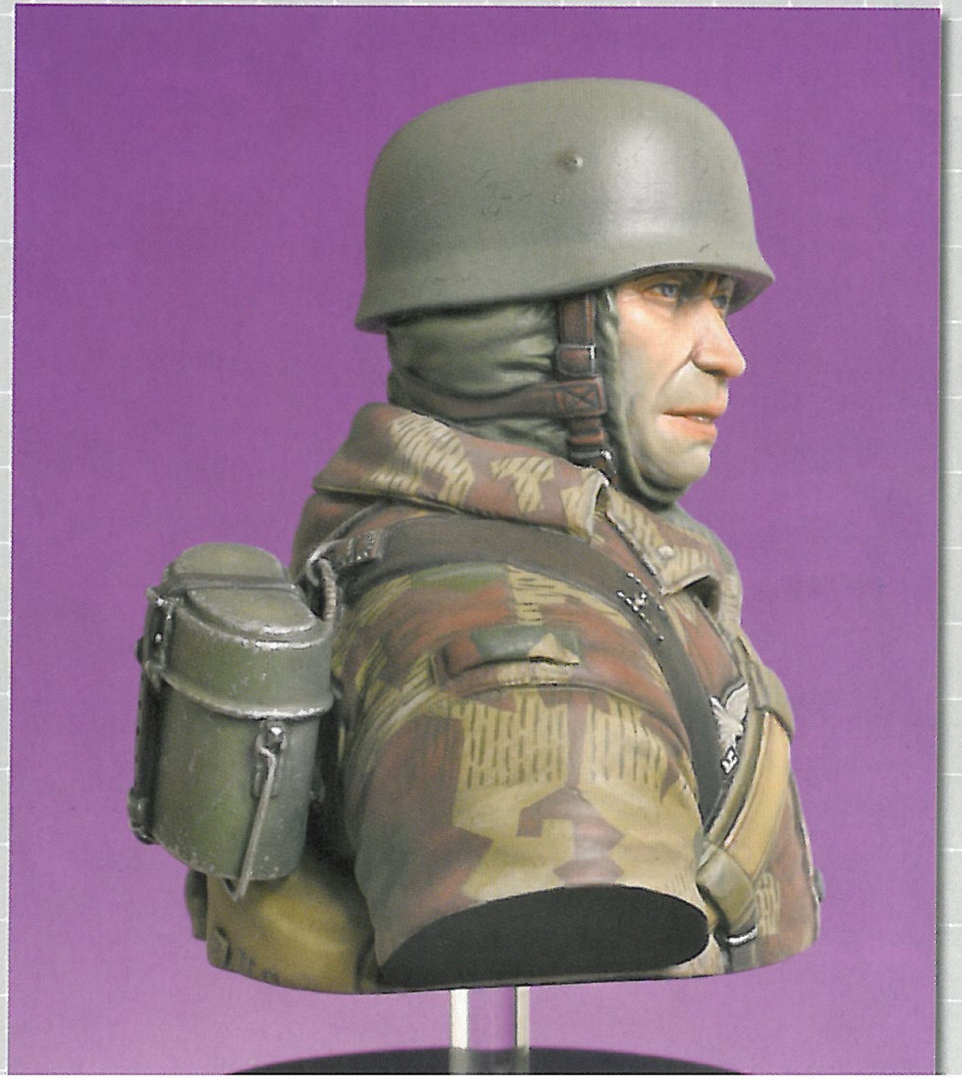
I'll cover the rest of the painting techniques in the captions... ■

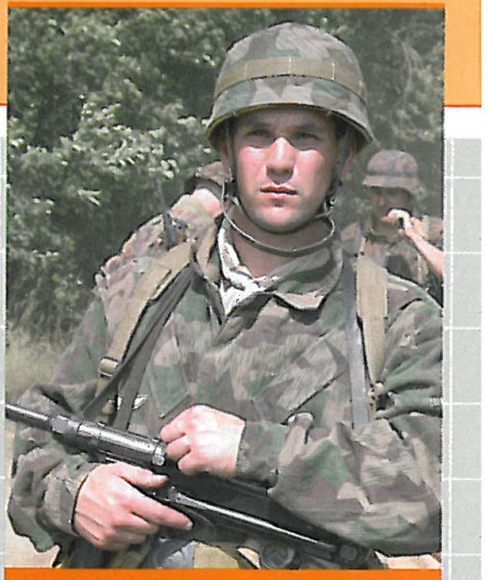
16. I wanted to give a distressed and worn look to the paratrooper's helmet and I used a painting technique which I read about in the aviation modelling press. The helmet was undercoated in silver paint from an aerosol. I used a blend of Humbrol 101 Mid Green, 157 Azure Blue and a dab of 33 Black to match the general colour of the re-enactors equipment. When I was satisfied the helmet was airbrushed. When the paint has thoroughly dried you can use the point of a blunt scalpel blade to scratch the green paint away to reveal the silver underneath.

17. All the equipment details can now be painted in. The toque has been painted in a dark green in preparation for the shading and blending process as well as the leather straps. At this stage I decided the eyes needed some improvement and so I began to repaint them. The eagle on the paratrooper's chest has also been given an undercoat in preparation for further detail painting and shading.

18. The haversack had me puzzled, as I could not find any reference for it in any of my books on Wehrmacht equipment. While looking through 'Men at War No.70 German Airborne Troops In World War II', I found an illustration of a paratrooper in the Ardennes who was enjoying plunder, captured from American soldiers, and he was wearing the same haversack. I had solved my problem, the bust is wearing captured American equipment! On the original garment the rain pattern again is printed in specific areas and the pattern is repeated. When all the paint had cured, a coat of Johnson Wax Klear floor polish was airbrushed over the entire bust. The varnish seals and protects the paint work providing a smooth surface for the final flat coat of Polly Scale Flat Finish.







Turn over for full size reference images

Modelspec

Verlinden Productions 200mm German Fallschirmjäger Ardennes Kit No. 1263

Materials

Polyurethane resin.
Klear floor polish, Poly Scale Flat Varnish. Tamiya Masking Tape.

Paints used

Humbrol Enamels Black 33. Mid green 101, Cockpit Green 78, Scarlet 60, Azure Blue 157 German Red Brown 160, Flesh 61, Desert Yellow 93, White 34, Dark Stone 187. and Blue 25.

References used

Uniforms and Insignia of the Luftwaffe Vol 2 1940 -1945.
Brian L. Davis. Arms and Armour. ISBN 1-85409-107-7

German Airborne Troops In World War II No.70 Men at War Series.
A part work based on an abridged version of the Osprey Series, re-packaged with a lead collectors figure by delPrado publishers. Check for availability from: Customer Service, delPrado Publishing, WOODGATE, PO Box 95, Hastings, TN35 4BZ.
Tel: 0870 7297999. E-Mail:enquires@woodgt.co.uk

Wehrmacht Camouflage Uniforms & Post-War Derivatives
by Daniel Peterson. Europa Militaria No17.
Windrow & Greene Publishing ISBN 1-85915-005-5

German Paratroopers The Illustrated History Of The Fallschirmjäger In World War II.
General Editor Chris McNab.
Published by Aurum Press ISBN 1-85410-726-7

✓ A very competitively priced kit, finely sculpted and cleanly cast to allow quick assembly.

✗ The model is hard to fault, so please take my personal comments in context. The resin was brittle, and it was difficult to clean up the field canteen, without damaging the handle. I had to add some detail to the shoulder straps. A set of painting instructions would have been a bonus. The vaguely painted box top photo made the splinter camouflage difficult to interpret.

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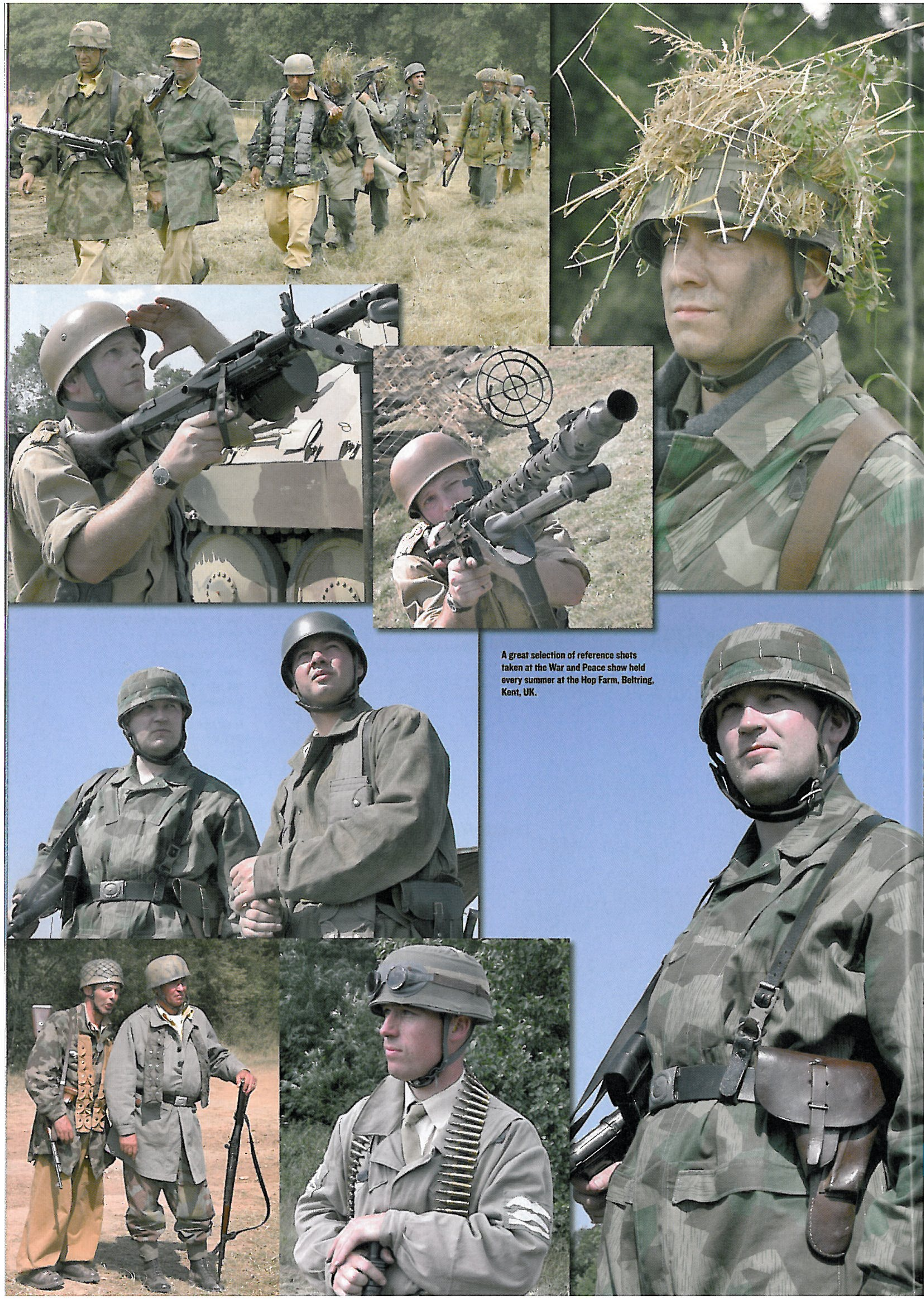

A great selection of reference shots taken at the War and Peace show held every summer at the Hop Farm, Beltring, Kent, UK.

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IN THE FIRING LINE

Dragon's most recent kit of the Sherman Firefly Vc is good - very good, but by adding the Formations update you can make it even better... **John Murphy** explains.

This is Dragon's most recent release of the Firefly Vc - their first attempt had some dimensional errors with the lower hull and a turret that featured an inaccurate flat spot on the lower edge forward of the loader's hatch. The main problem with the lower hull was that it was 5mm too long, and this in turn placed the idler mounts too far back giving the running gear and track run a strange elongated look by placing the idler wheels beyond the rear of the upper hull.

Dragon has now addressed these problems with the newly tooled version, meaning the new kit can be built from the box into a decent representation of the real thing without needing to spend extra money correcting avoidable faults.

Having said this, there is always room for improvement with any injection plastic kit if you desire perfection. This is where Formations step in, by replacing parts that can be better rendered in resin with its outstanding ability to replicate the finest detail from the master parts. These include a whole new turret, gun and mantlet, a new three-piece transmission housing, and a full set of their wonderful pioneer tools. A whole host of smaller fixtures and fittings too numerous to mention, make up this very comprehensive update set.

CONSTRUCTION

Since I was going to use the Formations pioneer tools in place of the kit parts, the first thing I needed to do was to fill all of their locating dimples. To do this I drilled out all the dimples using a 1mm drill bit in a pin vice. Into each of these holes I inserted a short length of 40 thou plastic rod. A small amount of Liquid poly was then flowed around each of these and then left to set.

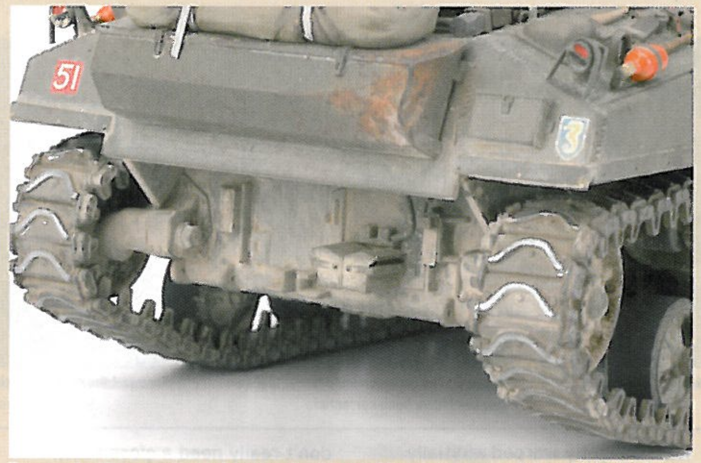
The protruding rod was then snipped off as flush as possible with a pair of Tamiya side cutters and finally sanded smooth. Any imperfections can be touched in with a small amount of model filler then re-sanded.

This may seem long-winded compared to just filling each dimple with model filler, however I feel it gives a neater finish and is generally less messy.

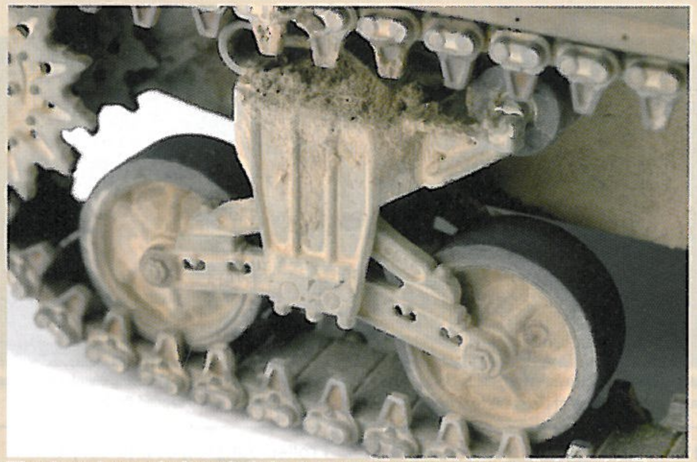
JOINING THE HULL

The upper and lower hull halves could now be joined together and mated with the resin transmission. I found what should have been a simple task to be quite tricky as all three parts needed to be aligned at the same time. If I had simply glued the upper and lower hull together first I would end up with the transmission part not being that great a fit as it was a little undersized compared to the kit part. To get around this I had to try and glue

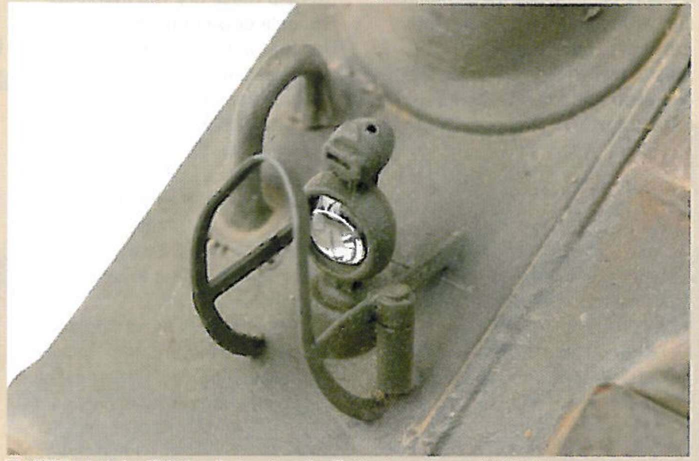
▶



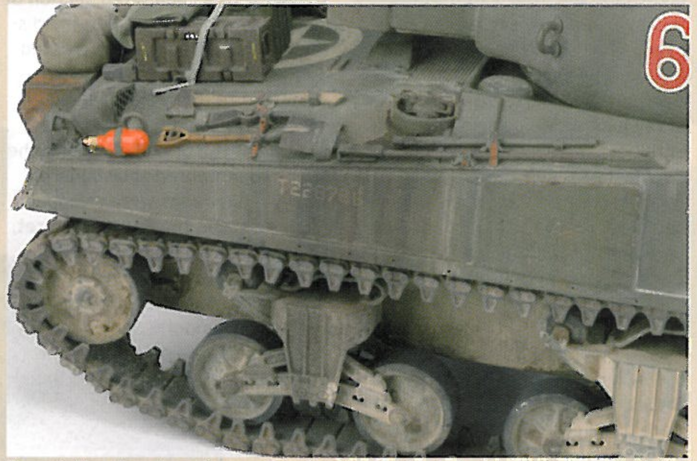
Rear panel exhibits a medium weight of mud and dust build-up, but not so much that will clog the fine detail. Note the damaged and rusted corner of the stowage box.



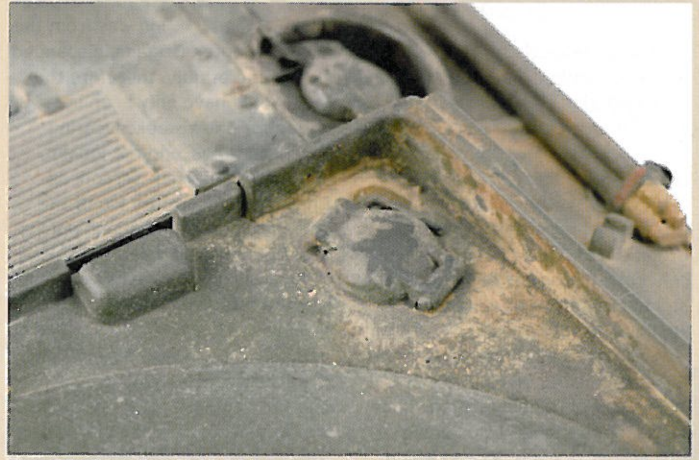
When the track passes back over the bogies, it deposits dust and mud particles onto the horizontal surfaces, replicated with alacrity here by the author.



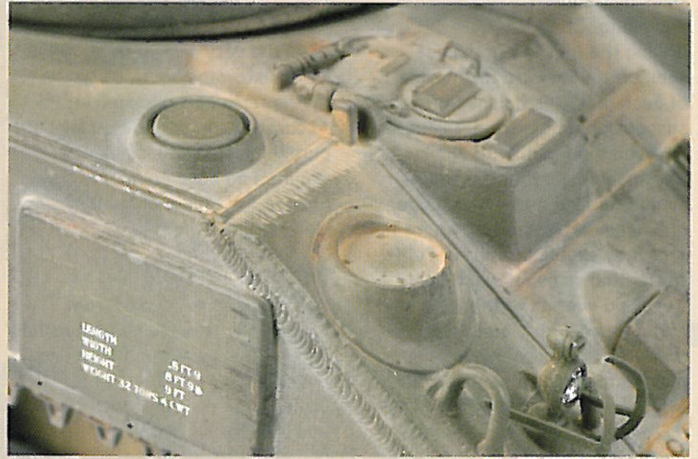
The MV Products headlight lens looks extremely effective in position, and behind the correctly shaped brushguard, a photo-etched item.



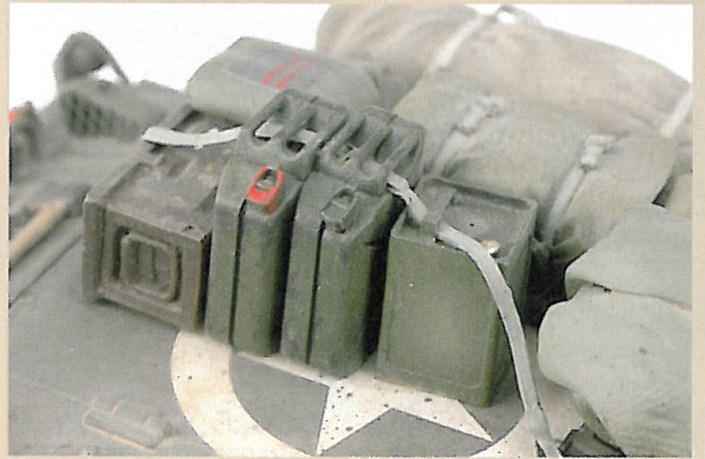
Excess fuel has glugged over the cap and run down the side of the hull, and has drained out through the rainwater hole as well. The film of dust holds the fuel which evaporates and makes a sludgy stain.



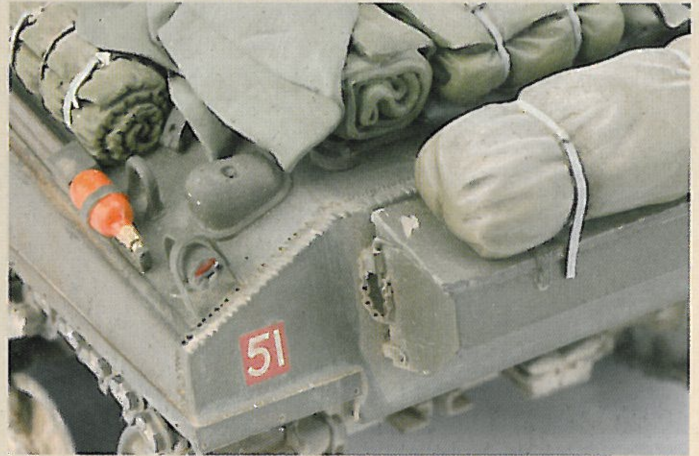
Dirt and dust has collected behind the armoured lip that protects the filler cap. Pastel powder and pigments are ideal for creating this effect.



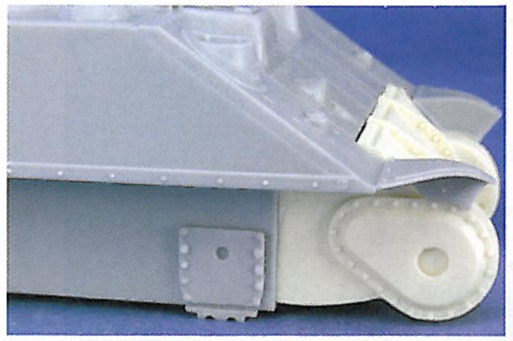
The scaloped weld was added by the author using a bead of Milliput shaped with a thin piece of brass tube chamfered at the end. note how the dust wash has pic ked this detail out.

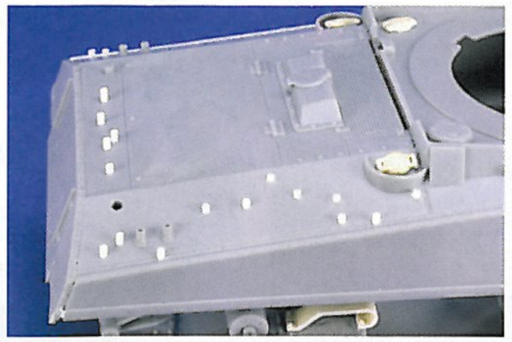


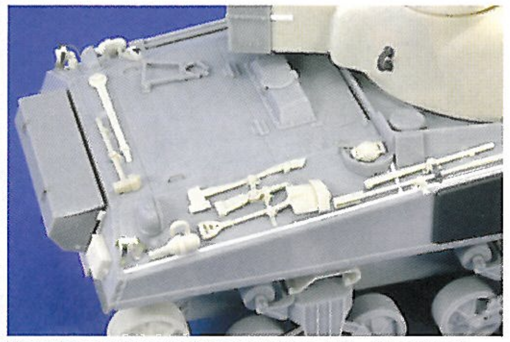
All stowage must be tied down! Webbing, rope, anything was used to stop the precious supplies of fuel, water, food, bedding and war booty from falling off!

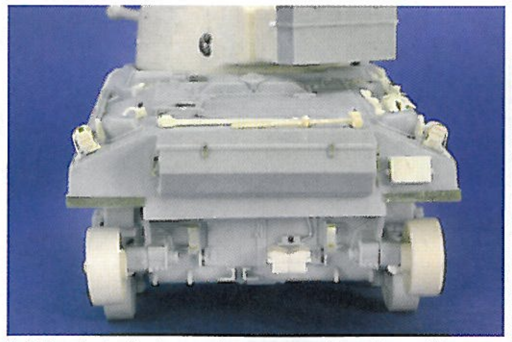


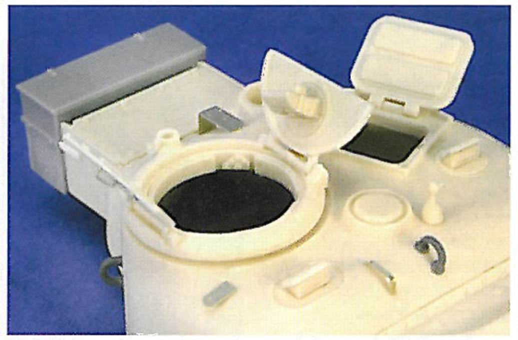
An orange extinguisher? That's right! Note also the rolled up bedding, tarpaulins etc, again all secured firmly to the tank.

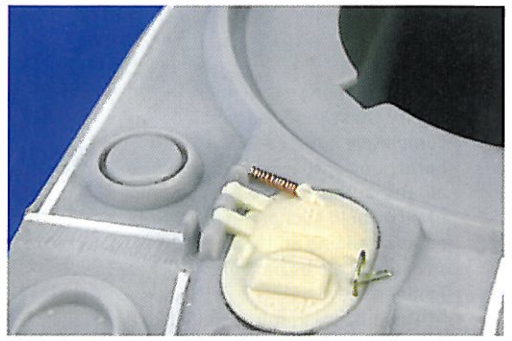

The new 3 piece transmission that proved tricky to fit and compare the front plate weld to the shot of the completed model on page 29.


All the tool locating dimples have been drilled out and plugged ready to be cut and sanded flush.


The replacement pioneer tools are now in place and the recessed welds have been corrected.


Butt view showing the Accurate Armour stowage bins and some of the Aber brass parts used.


Formations superbly cast commanders cupola features the hip ring pads misding from the Dragon parts.


The hatch springs were made by coiling copper wire around some thin brass rod and attached using cyano glue.

◀ all three together at the same time. This was easier said than done, but I eventually got around this by using slow setting gel type cyano glue from Rocket. I applied this quite generously around the transmission, and by using all three of my hands manipulated the parts until I got the best fit. Then gave it a blast with some superglue accelerator. The rest of the upper and lower hull was then bonded as normal by flowing Liquid Poly along the joints.

DETAILING THE HULL

With the hull halves firmly joined, the next parts I positioned were the VVSS suspension units. These were detailed before fitting with new return roller skids by Gauntlet, and along with drilling the four missing holes seen on the forward facing side of each unit, this finished off the suspension unit extra detailing.

A common fault with all plastic Sherman kits is that the weld-seams running around the upper hull edges are recessed, where in fact they should be raised. To fix these, thin strips of plastic card were laid over all of the weld lines and washed with Liquid Poly. This softened the sharp edges of the plasticard, to form a more realistic effect.

To create the glacis plate welds on the front edge of the hull sides, I rolled out Milliput into very thin strips. These strips were then shaped with a chamfered section of fine brass tube to simulate the distinctive scalloped pattern created by the welding tool.

Moving to the rear of the hull now, and I used a 0.4 mm drill bit to drill out the drain holes from the filler cap armoured splashguards. The fuel filler caps were swapped for the ones in the Formations set, which was done for two reasons. Firstly, they exhibit a nice cast texture whereas the kit parts are completely smooth. Secondly they feature a tiny hole cast into one end to help positively locate their locking pins securely.

At the very rear of the hull the kit hull stowage bin was replaced by the resin part supplied in the Accurate Armour update set, purely because of laziness as it required no building up and only needed the tiniest amount of cleaning up.

THE TURRET

The replacement turret from Formations comes as a wonderfully detailed hollow two-part casting. When compared to the kit turret it really is noticeably better. I did however have a problem with the resin 17 pounder gun barrel in that it was slightly warped - initially I wasn't concerned as they can usually be straightened by heating with a hairdryer then gently reshaped, but for some reason this barrel would not straighten. We even had to heat it up and re-straighten it three times during the article photo shoot.

PAINTING

After a coat of Holts acrylic aerosol grey primer had been applied, the model was base coated in Vallejo Model Color Olive Drab (889). This colour on its own is very dark, too dark I think to leave as it is. What it does do though is create a nice shadow layer for the successive colours. The OD was followed by a light mottling of Brown Violet (887), which helps to break up the uniformity of the basic OD coat and starts to lighten the finish. Lastly some even lighter patches were applied, this time using Russian Uniform Green (924). These patches were concentrated on the highest details and to the centre of each of the appliqué armour panels.

With the camouflage colours in place I misted on a couple of light coats of Johnsons Klear floor polish. Even though I was going to use Archer dry-rub decals (which don't really need a gloss coat), I have started to use decal solutions to help these dry-rub markings snuggle down onto the surface for that painted on look, and this requires a gloss surface to work.

With the decals in place everything was then sealed with a coat of Vallejo matt varnish, ready to start the weathering process.

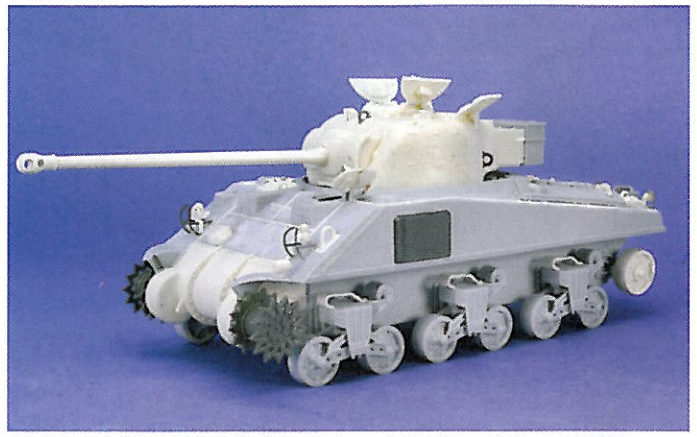
This was started with a colourwash of raw umber oil paint, heavily thinned with white spirits and applied using a wide, flat, sable artist's brush.

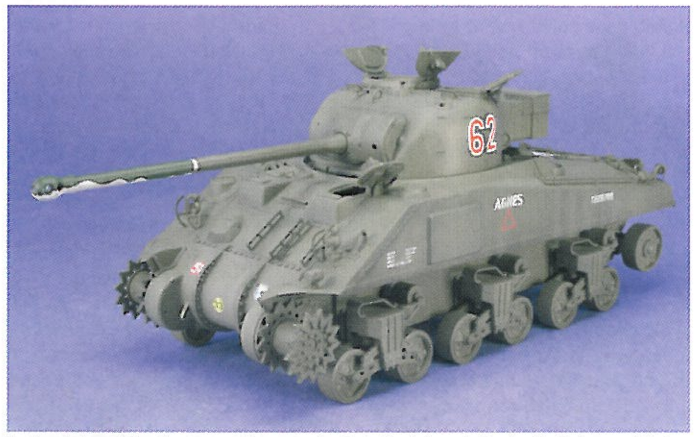
I followed this by adding a small amount of wear and tear, including some chipping and scratches, all with Vallejo model colours and a 000 brush.

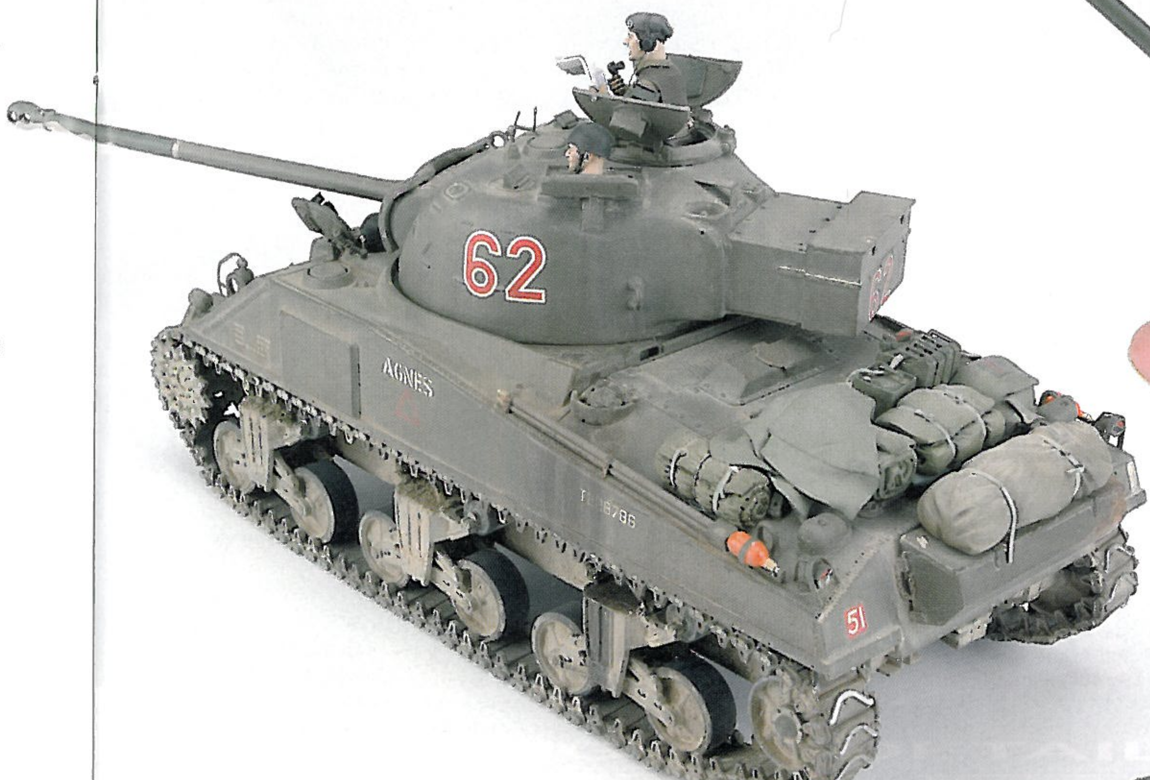
I had to keep in mind the vehicle I was depicting was from the 27th Armoured Brigade, disbanded by the end of July, therefore the tank would have only been in action for a few weeks wearing these markings, and not looking like something from Scrapheap Challenge... Therefore I kept the chipping to a minimum and only to areas of constant wear.

Some localised washes of rust coloured oil paint were applied around the larger scratches, which helped to tone them down. Once the rust washes had dried fully one further wash was applied. This was a dust wash to simulate the fine powder that will settle around ▶

> 'I kept the chipping to a minimum and only to areas of constant wear'


Just about ready for priming, note that the author has used the drive sprockets and applique armour patch form the Tamiya M4.

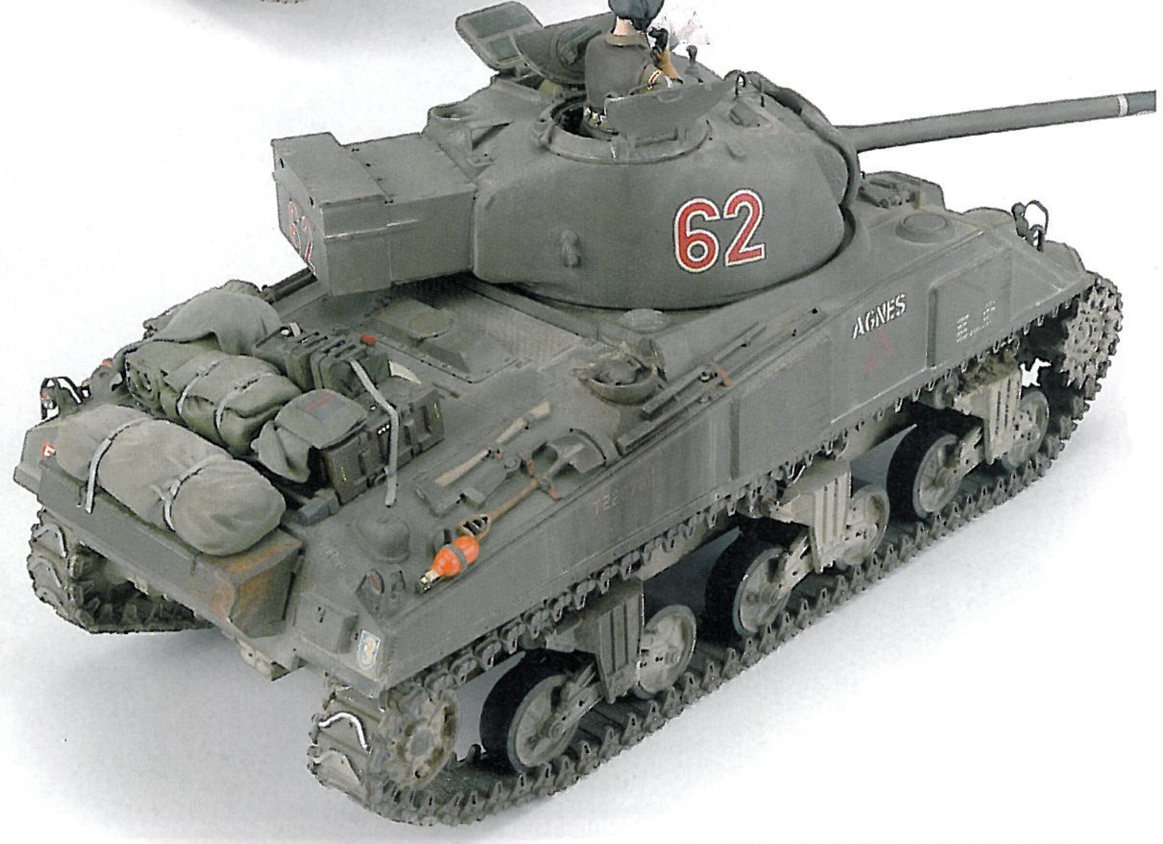

Basic painting and decaling has now been completed, the Firefly is ready for detail painting, track fitting and finally weathering.



No expense spared for the crew figures to sit on, scrap plastic card with the tops sides painted black!

The Formations update kit No.F021 includes to following features;

- New three piece final drive/transmission housing
- Complete pioneer tool set
- Complete replacement late low bustle turret
- Hollow one-piece muzzle brake
- Accurate late pattern split-hatch commander's cupola
- Pressed idler wheels with reverse face detail
- Many new hull and turret details
- Towing hawser with stowage clamps
- Newly tooled smoke candle boxes, gun cleaning rods and first aid box
- MV Products lenses for searchlight and headlights



detail and along panel lines. In reality these vehicles would be completely covered in dust with hardly any actual paint showing at all. But in this case, a heavy film of dirt would sort of defeat the point of adding all these lovely Archer decals as part of this model review!

The dust wash was mixed from Humbrol Camouflage Grey No.28 and Matt Cream No.103. Together, these colours make a pleasing light beige tone ideal for simulating this light powdery dust. This was thinned heavily with more white spirit in preparation for application to the model. By concentrating this effect on the lower hull and running gear only, I avoided obliterating the previously applied washes on the rest of the model, with only a small amount being added to the engine deck and hull sides.

The final weathering techniques will be covered in part two of this feature, when the Firefly is finally placed on its diorama. This isn't an excuse to force you to buy Issue Two of MMI, it is just that I don't apply the final weathering until the groundwork is complete so the colours all tie in together, and I can get a better feeling for how dirty it should end up.

CONCLUSION

Overall, Dragon have produced an excellent out of the box model that should please most. If however you crave perfection, the sets we have included will really help you on your way to the perfect Sherman Firefly. ■

Modelspec

**DRAGON SHERMAN FIREFLY (6182)
WITH FORMATIONS UPDATE SET**

Parts used

Formations Firefly update set (F021),
Resicast Tank commander, Ultracast driver and loader from Normandy Tank crew set (UC35027),
Archer decal set 'Red and White Numbers' (AR35042), Aber Brass Sherman M4A4,
Sherman Vc 'Firefly' (35033)
Accurate Armour British Sherman Update (A036)
Drive sprockets and lifting lugs and appliqué armour patches left over from Tamiya's M4.

Paints used

Vallejo;
Olive Drab 889, Brown Violet 887, Black Grey 862, Burnt Umber 941, Citadel Miniatures Bolt Gun Metal, Chainmail.
Mig Productions Pigments;
Europe Dust P028, Light Dust P027, Dark Mud P033, Russian Earth P034.

☑ Beautiful casting and superb detailing
Good simple to follow instructions.

☒ Unable to straighten the gun barrel.

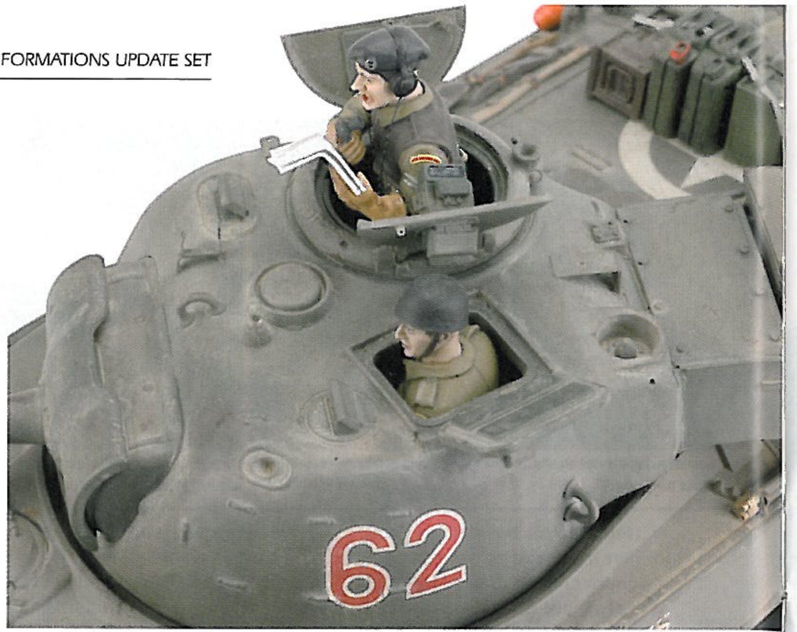
Available from

Dragon Sherman Firefly - Good model shops everywhere.
Formations update set - www.formationsmodels.com

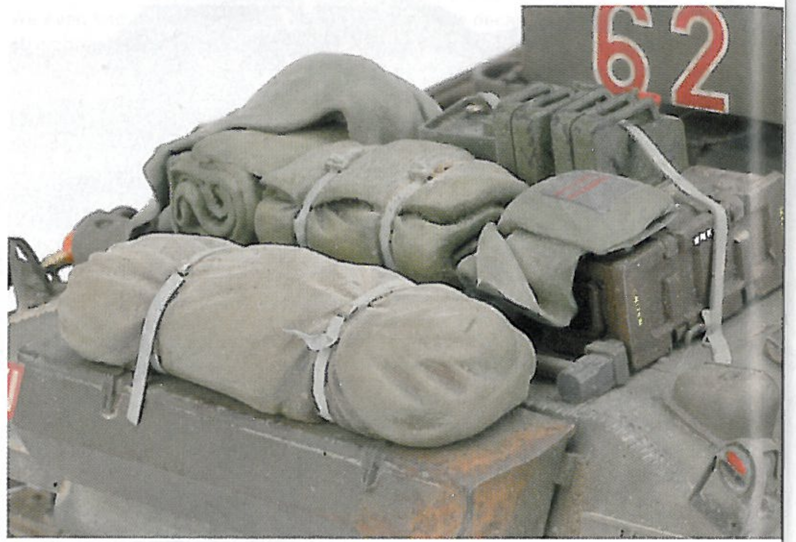
Rating ●●●●●●●●●○

Acknowledgements

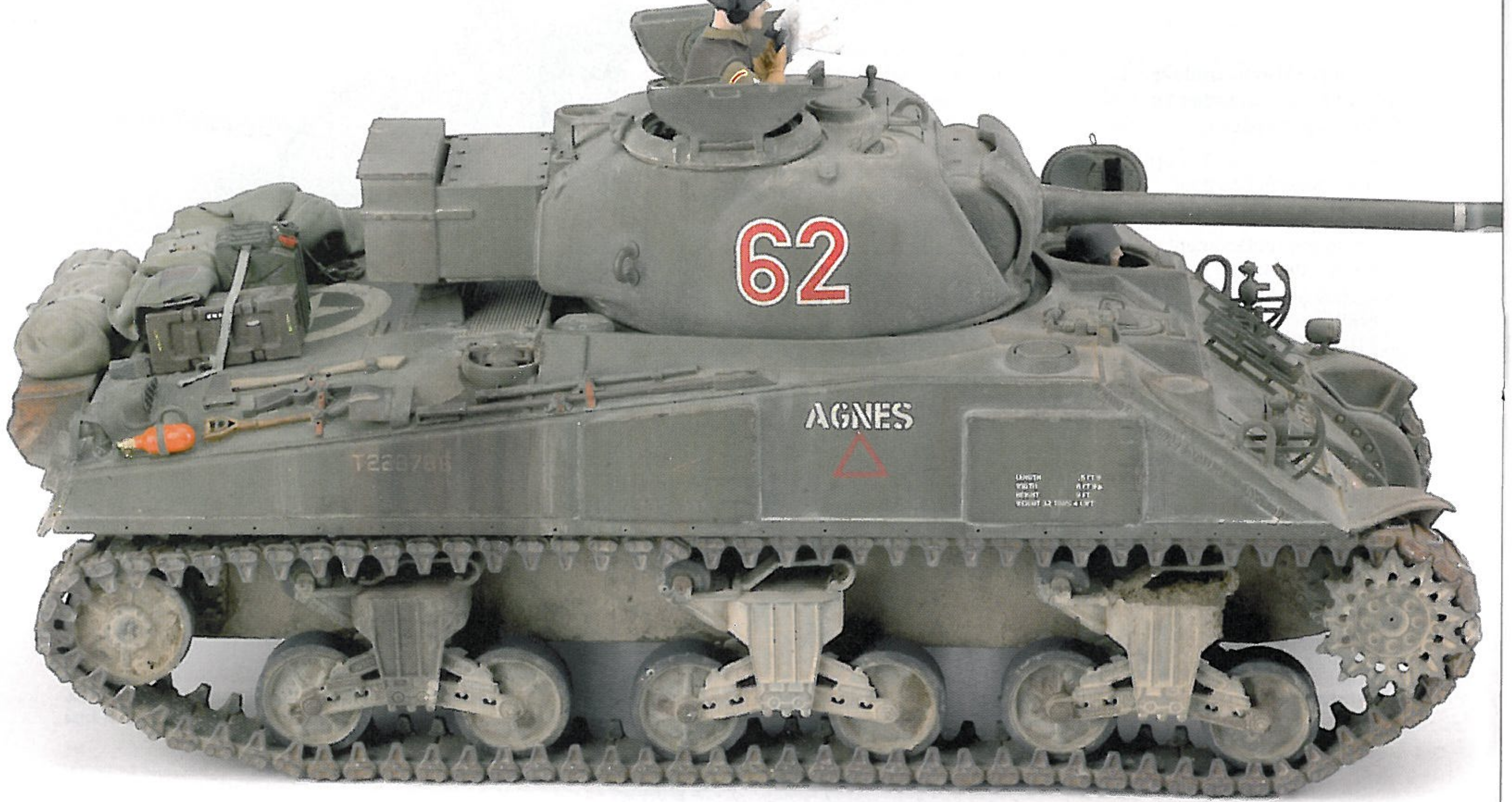
Thank you to Dragon, Formations, Aber, Accurate Armour and Archer for generously supplying their products used in this project.



The crew figures consisted of a Resicast commander with an Ultracast head and an Ultracast loader.



One of those little personal touches, that the tarp partially covering the ammo box has been repaired with a patch of service issue blanket with those distinctive red stripes.



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Dozer Blade
(Highly detailed Dozer Blade for Soviet tanks T-55A, T-54, T-62)

engine set

complementary set

3047 T-55A
(photo-etched parts, detailed turret compartments, gun, ammo boxes, radio set, floor)

3046 T-55A
(photo-etched parts,detailed engine, covers, engine compartment, fuel tanks, radiators)

NEW

interior set
for TAMIYA kit

conversion set

3045 T-55AM2 "Kladivo"
(photo-etched parts,detailed driver's compartments, transmision, ammo boxes, radio set, floor)

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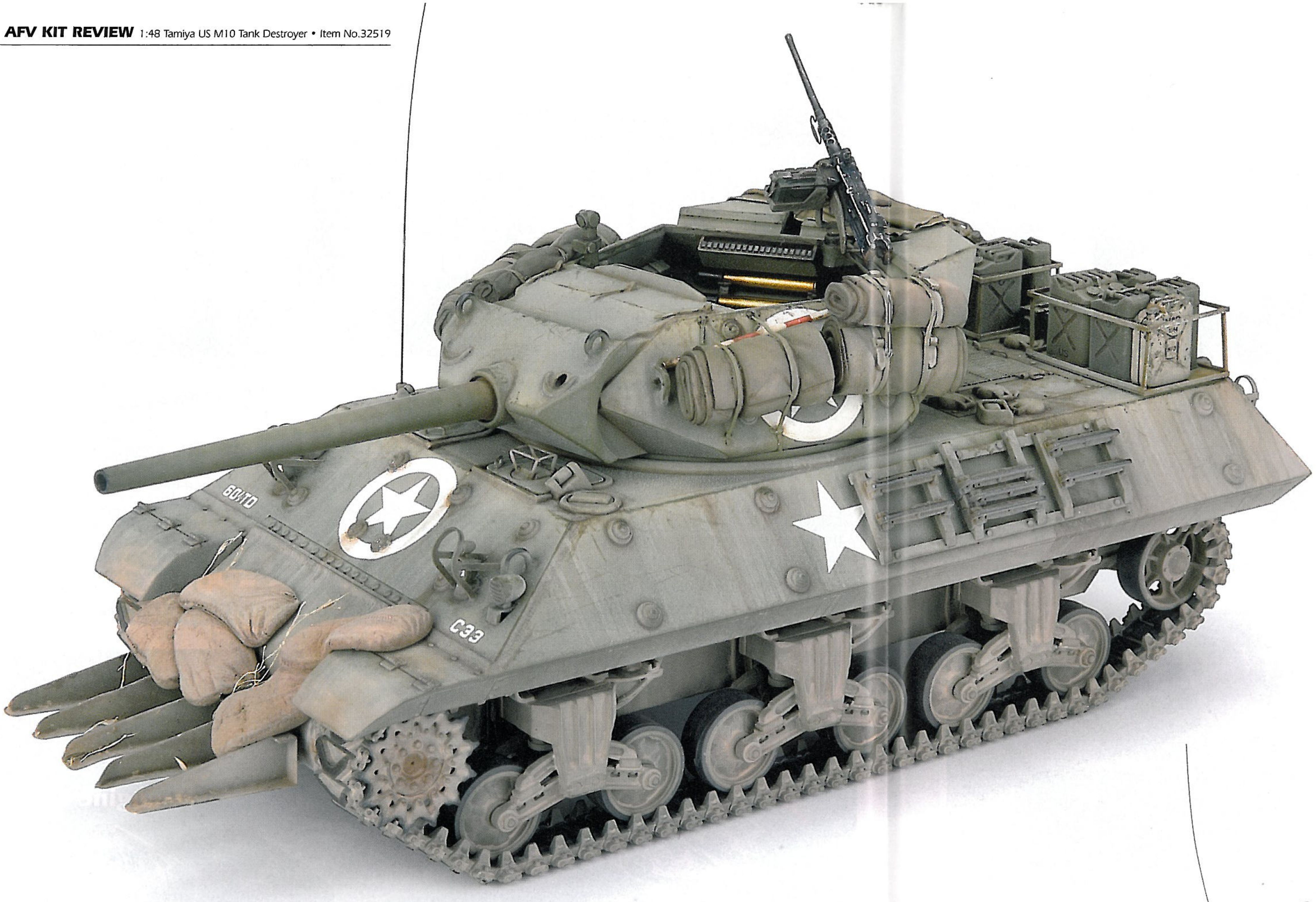
U.K. source: HANNANT'S, GERMANY source: Aeromodel, mail@aeromodel.de, www.aeromodel.de, www.moduni.de



SMALL, BUT PERFECTLY FORMED

With great enthusiasm and energy, Tamiya are creating an army of new 1:48 armour kits, of which the handsome US M10 Tank Destroyer is one of the latest. **Marcus Nicholls** makes a few subtle enhancements to this beautiful little kit.

Tamiya are continuing headlong into the rekindled scale of 1:48 military vehicles with a whole line up of new kits for 2006, and when we initially discussed just what would be included in MMI we decided to make a commitment to this range. The M10 tank destroyer is arguably one of the most appealing subjects released to date, thanks mainly to the open topped turret revealing the gun breach, ammunition stowage and further details within the main hull. It also presents the interesting challenge of how to realistically depict an olive drab finish in a smaller scale than 1:35, and still make it look interesting...

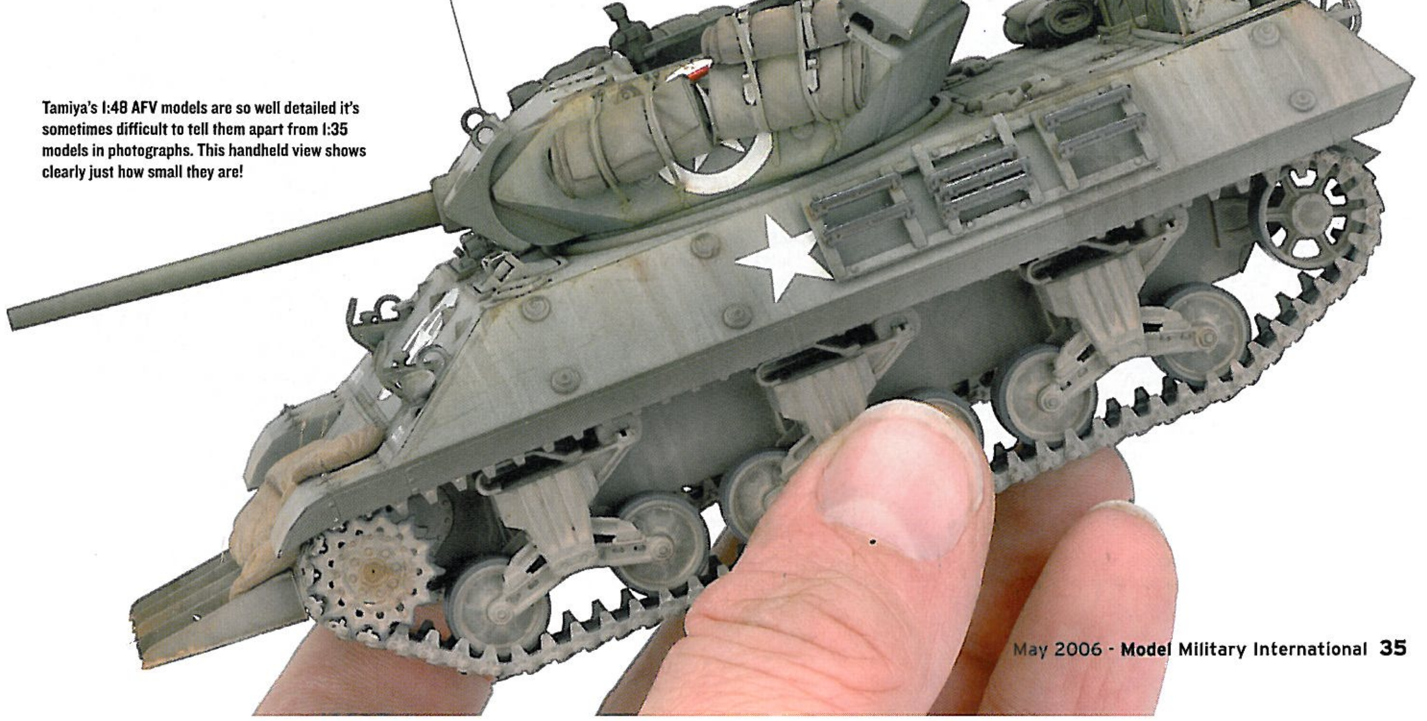
Tamiya's M10 follows the now familiar format of a cast metal lower hull with cast-in suspension mounting points. The VVSS bogies themselves are all injection moulded and they are superbly well detailed, with intelligently united sub-assemblies making construction speedy, with little if any detail compromises. Sherman suspension always presents the modeller with a challenge when it comes to painting the roadwheel tyres - at what point do you paint them and assemble the bogies? With this kit, it's quite possible to glue the back plates of the suspension units onto the chassis, fit the wheels and the outer parts of the bogies, paint the lot then disassemble everything, mount the wheels on sticks and paint the tyres grey-black! This is precisely what I did, and very handy it was too!

The tracks come in the form of upper and lower runs, short lengths for the 'takes-ups' and individual links to wrap around the sprocket and idler. Liquid cement is best for assembling these, but small amounts only must be applied (with a fine brush) to avoid flooding the detail and prematurely cementing the track to the running gear. For each side I made up an upper and lower run, split roughly half way to allow them to be removed from the running gear for painting. Aftermarket tracks are not required as the kit parts fit perfectly, and are marvellous depictions on the classic Sherman rubber chevron design.

The tracks' inners faces are, however, peppered with ejector pin marks, and to fill them a drop of Mr Surfacer 500 was deposited in each, and sanded flat once fully dry. I only bothered sanding the lower, upward facing track runs as the pin marks on the upper runs would face downwards and be hidden from view on the finished model.

INTERNAL AREA

Although crews sometimes fabricated roofs for their vehicles for grenade and weather protection, a standard M10 TD left the factory with an open topped turret, affording a view of the gun, turret interior walls and a good amount of the fighting compartment. Tamiya's kit comes with a good representation of these areas, although there's one thing that simply must be added by the modeller - sponson floors. ▶



Tamiya's 1:48 AFV models are so well detailed it's sometimes difficult to tell them apart from 1:35 models in photographs. This handheld view shows clearly just how small they are!

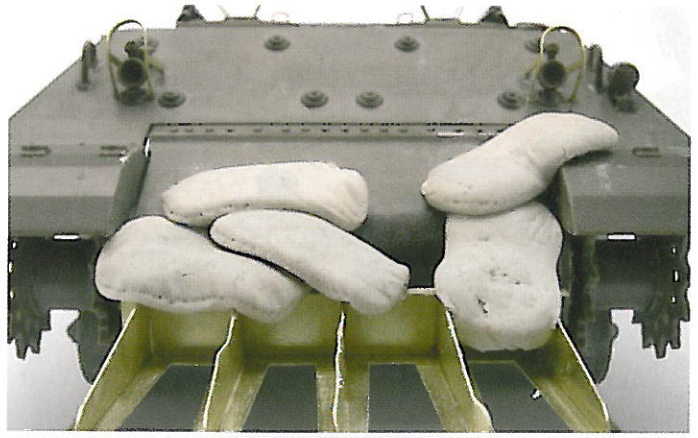
If this is not done, you'll be just able to see the upper track runs through the turret, somewhat negating the impressive levels of detail on the partial interior. Thankfully this is an easy job, as two rectangles of thin plastic card can be glued to the bottoms of the ammunition racks which hang from the upper hull, hiding the track from the firewall to the driver's area.

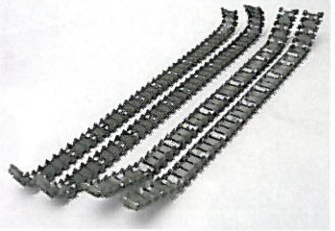
I used a few aftermarket items on this model, namely Aber's set for the Tamiya M4 Sherman (48003), and Hauler's set (HLX48001) for the same kit as well as their rhinocerous hedgerow cutter (HLX48027, modified to fit) plus 2mm PSP lenses for the headlights, a Verlinden Productions .50cal machine gun and a few items of stowage also from VP. The racks on the rear deck were made up from plastic card and strip, and the jerrycans that occupy them were from the M10 kit plus some extras from Tamiya's separately available Jerrycan Set, Item No.32510. Hauler now offer etched brass sets specific to Tamiya's M10 (HLX4060, HLX4061, HLX4062), plus a hedgerow cutter (HLX4064). I did not have any of these, so for the rear light brush guards I modified the front guards from Aber's set, a bit wasteful I know, but I needed to replace the moulded plastic parts which do look a little heavy in this small scale.

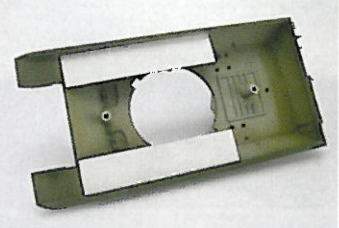
PAINTING THE OD

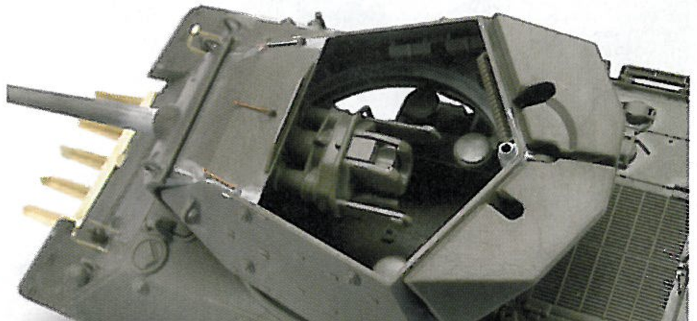
The process of painting and weathering a small scale armour model is slightly different from a 1:35 subject as an extra light touch is needed - the old adage 'less is more' could have been invented for 1:48 armour finishing... After priming the model with Mr Surfacer 1200 (aerosol) I began with an overall coat of olive drab, consisting mostly of Tamiya XF62 with a drop of XF3 Flat Yellow and XF7 Flat Red to impart a warmer tone. This mix was then lightened with a few drops of XF15 Flat Flesh (sorry for lack of precise amounts, I never measure paint mixes), and in the classic Verlinden style sprayed highlights along the top edges of the hull, misted the centre of the panels - you know the technique I mean! This was lightened again, taking into account the scale lightening effect and the final highlights applied. A light wash of Vandyke Brown oil paint dissolved in white spirit followed, paying particular attention to the filler caps and the recessed lines around the engine access hatches.

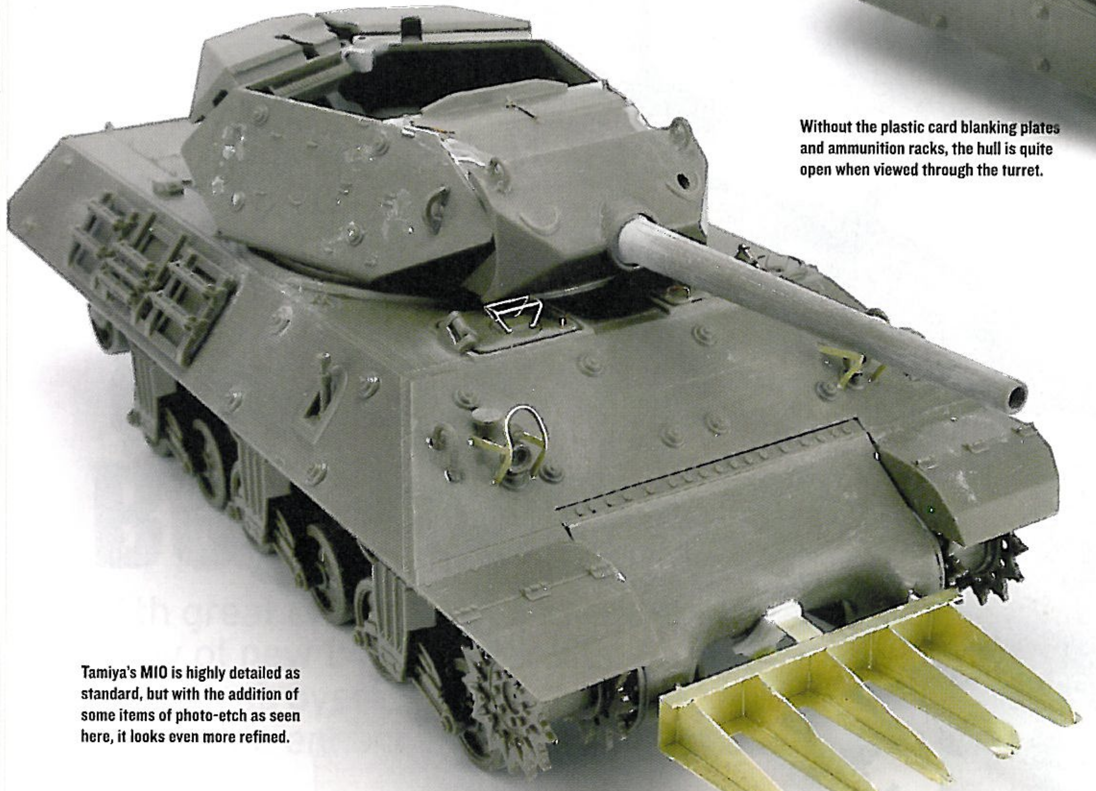
Throughout the weathering process I applied vertical streaks to the hull sides to represent rain marks using dark and light wash colours, building up to the final striated pattern you see on the finished model. Aside from some very light scrapes and paint bruises around the edge of the turret aperture plus a general build-up of dust on the running gear, little other weathering was applied to the model.


Here we see the sandbag scattered over the hedgerow cutter, added by the crew to limit the effect of an exploding mine. Sylmasta's excellent A+B epoxy putty was used to form the sandbags.


The two upper and lower runs of track - the pin marks in the lower run have been filled.


Two rectangles of plastic card were cemented across the bottom of the ammunition racks to hide the exposed track.


Without the plastic card blanking plates and ammunition racks, the hull is quite open when viewed through the turret.


Tamiya's M10 is highly detailed as standard, but with the addition of some items of photo-etch as seen here, it looks even more refined.

Apart from the use of photo-etched parts, not many modifications are necessary with this kit. Here's a list of the tasks carried out;

Filed out underside of horn bracket to more accurately represent its shape.

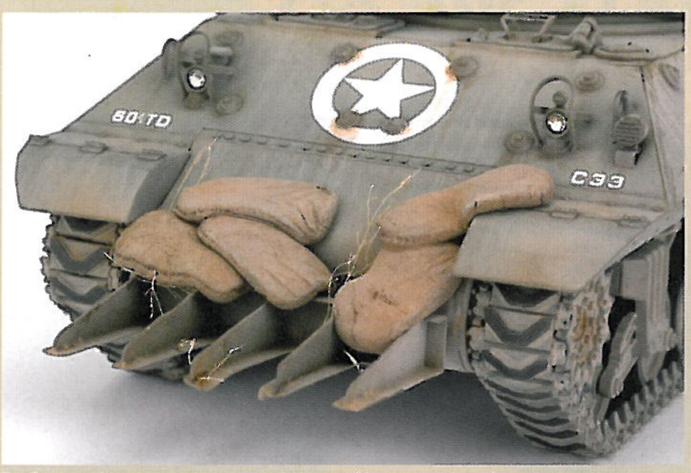
Replaced the three moulded-in rods on turret top with copper wire.

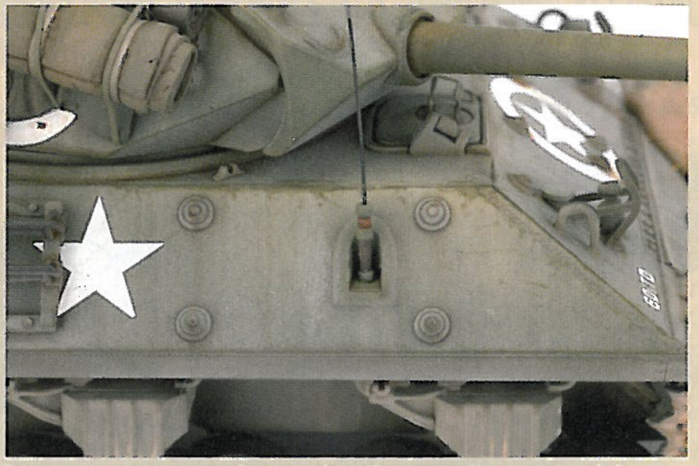
Replaced moulded-in handles on drivers and engine access hatches with wire.

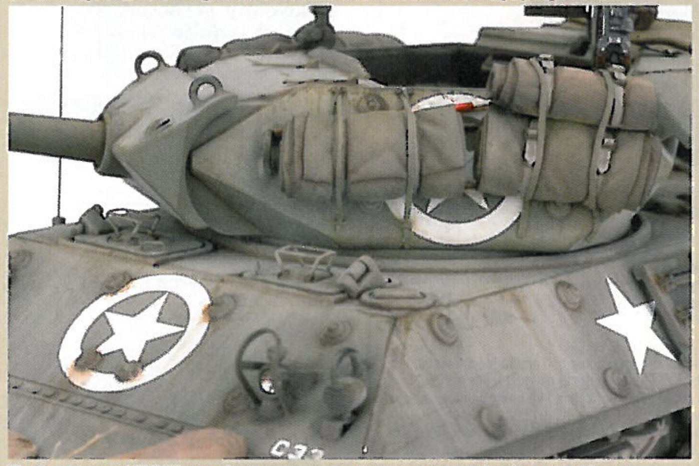
Drilled out aerial base to accommodate stretched sprue item.

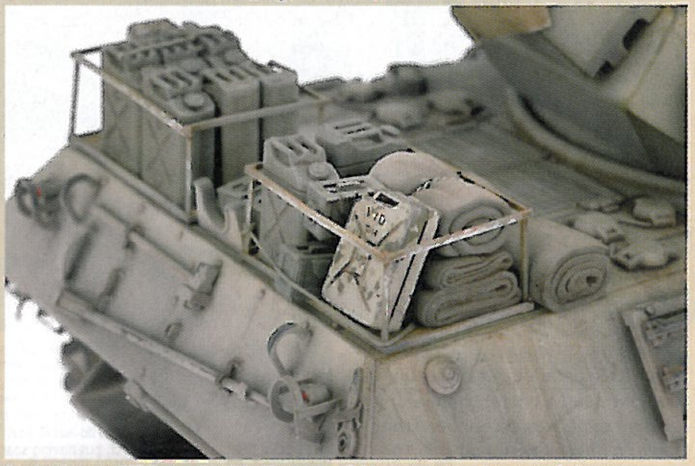
Hollowed out headlights in readiness for clear resin items (PSP, 2mm)

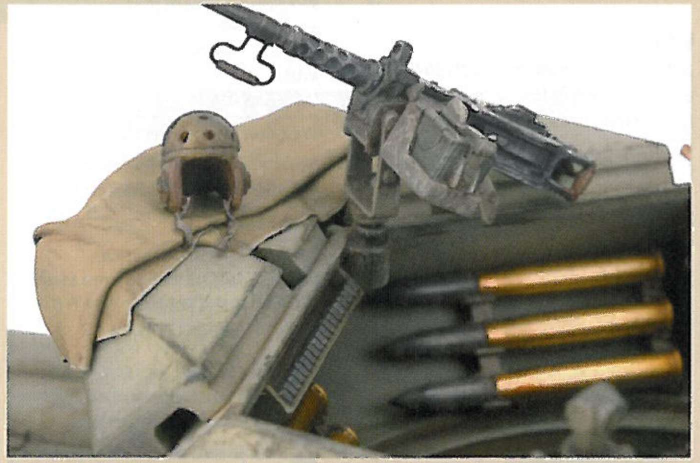
Carved off all moulded-in tool brackets and fitted photo-etched items.

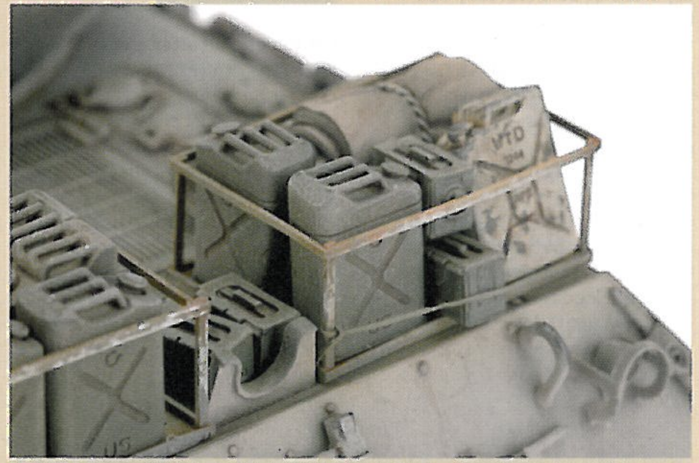

Small scraps of dry grass were secured to the cutter with matt varnish, to hint at the device's use. Collect scraps of dried fine vegetation in the summer months and store in a poly bag until needed.

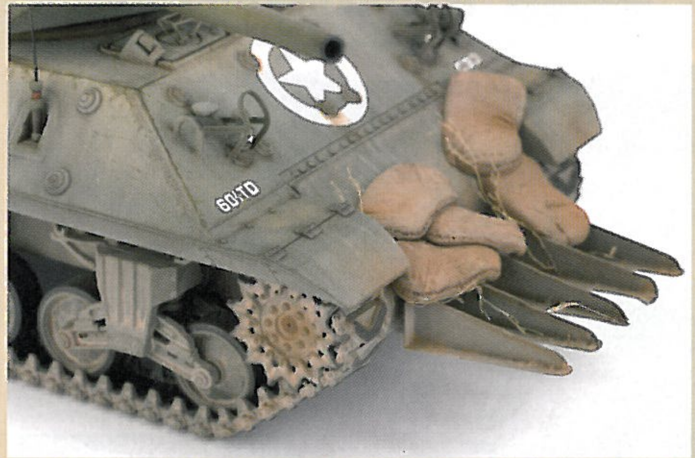

Tamiya provide a neat aerial base - all that it needs is drilling out with a fine bit and a stretched sprue aerial installed. Note the dark brown spring and insulator, and olive drab bands.

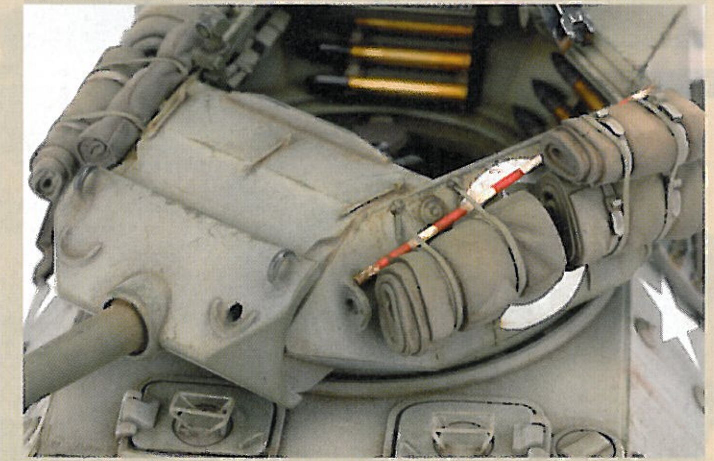

Wartime images of M10 TDs usually show plenty of soft stowage strapped to the turret sides, so Verlinden Productions' beautiful resin 1:48 bedrolls were glued on and secured with lead foil strips.

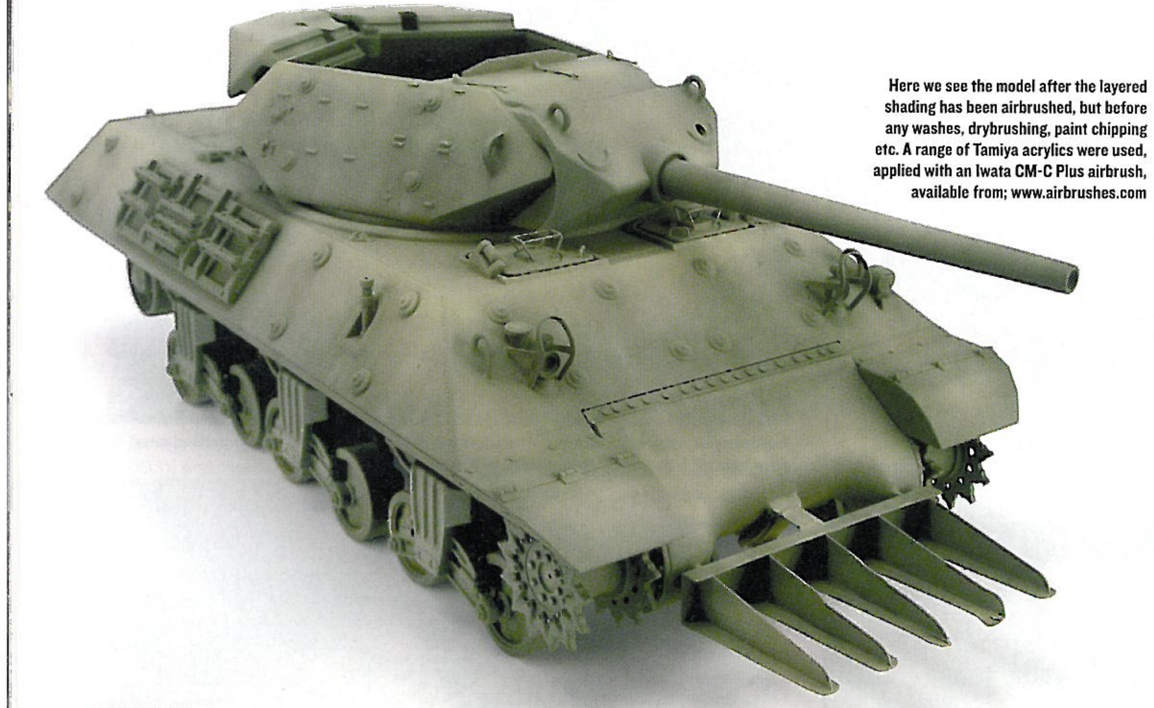

Another feature of M10s seen in original images are field-constructed racks to carry fuel cans, tarpaulins, ammunition cans and anything else needed by the crew. These were made from scrap plastic.


Verlinden Productions also make an 'unoccupied' US tanker's helmet which adds a nice touch of detail. The tarp was made from folded lead foil, airbrushed with Tamiya acrylics.

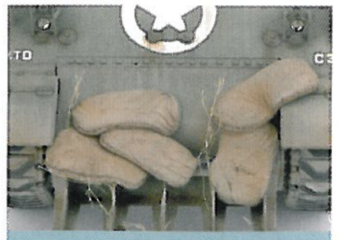

Tamiya include some US fuel cans with the M10 kit, along with some items of crew stowage. Extra cans were taken from Tamiya's fuel can set to fill out the racks. German fuel cans were also used.


Hauler now offer a hedgerow cutter specifically for the M10 (No.HLX48064), but with a couple of mods, the item for the M4 Sherman fitted well and looks good. Hauler also make duckbill track grousers.


The M10 was not designed as an indirect-fire weapons system, but was sometimes used in that role. The artillery ranging pole not only adds a spot of colour but is quite appropriate therefore...



Here we see the model after the layered shading has been airbrushed, but before any washes, drybrushing, paint chipping etc. A range of Tamiya acrylics were used, applied with an Iwata CM-C Plus airbrush, available from; www.airbrushes.com



Tech Tip!

When working with epoxy putty (sandbags on the M10) spread a little talc on your working surface and fingertips to prevent sticking. The putty will absorb the talc and can be painted over without the need to clean off.

◀ CREW'S CLUTTER

The 'soft' stowage items around the turret plus the driver's helmet come from Verlinden Productions, as does the .50cal MG (2259), an exquisitely detailed set of castings that just need a barrel change handle - mine was scrounged from Hauler's Sherman etched set. The US stars were taken from Archer dry transfer sets (actually 1:35 but the smaller sizes were perfect for 1:48), with the rest coming from the kit's decal sheet. 006" lead foil (from Tiger Models) was cut into thin strips, painted with a randomly selected Vallejo khaki colour (probably No.880), and fixed with minute drops of CA glue. The sandbags strewn over the hedgerow cutter were made from Sylmasta A+B epoxy putty, and the folded tarp on the turret counter weights folded up from lead foil - a wonderful material! The kit includes six 'ready rounds' for the turret, and after a coat of gloss black, the projectiles were masked off and the shell casings sprayed with Alclad II Chrome, followed by a light overspray of Alclad II Clear Orange to create a brass colour. All sub-assemblies and detail items were brought together using very small amounts of CA glue, and the upper and lower hulls were united using the self tapping screws provided in the kit - a very secure and neat way of accomplishing this final step.

VERDICT

After some initial reservations about a moving into a 'new' scale for armour projects, I am happy to say I was very impressed with this kit. It's classic Tamiya quality from start to finish and with the judicious application of photo-etched enhancements, it looks superb. I enjoyed every minute and am very much looking forward to my next Tamiya 1:48 armour model, with etched brass additions of course..! ■

MEET THE AUTHOR

MARCUS NICHOLLS
Location; UK
Age; Unknown
Hobbies; This one!

As some readers may know, I am the Editor of Tamiya Model Magazine and a keen modeller, although I build all sorts of stuff from armour to cars, aircraft and even a bit of science fiction. I've been building models on and off for over thirty years!

I have to admit that Tamiya's 1:48 AFVs did not grab my imagination at first, but having spent a little more time on the M10 and adding some extra bits, I really enjoyed it and will definitely be doing some more!

I wish Spud good luck with his new magazine, I'll be supporting him all the way. ■

Modelspec

Tamiya 1:48 US Tank Destroyer Mid Production
Item No.32519

Materials

Injection moulded olive drab styrene, cast metal lower hull, polycap wheel retainers, waterslide decals.

Paints used

Tamiya Acrylics;
XF62 Olive Drab, XF3 Flat Yellow, XF7 Flat Red, XF15 Flat Flesh, XF1 Flat Black, XF2 Flat White, XF68 NATO Brown, XF4 Yellow Green, XF51 Khaki Drab
Vallejo Acrylics;
085 Italian Red, 057 Black, 822 German Camouflage Black Brown, 846 Mahogany Brown
Humbrol Enamels;
Metalcote Polished Steel
Alclad II;
Chrome, Clear Orange

Weathering materials

Mig Productions Europe Dust PS028, Oil paint washes; Vandyke Brown, White, Yellow Ochre.

References

For practical and affordability purposes, Ampersand's 'Allied Axis No.12' will provide a wealth of ideas and excellent references for the M10, as well as M36 and you'll require little else.

☑ Excellent fit of parts, sharp detail, intelligently designed for quick assembly without detail compromises. Nicely detailed interior.

☒ Ejector pin marks on tracks, a minor problem as most are hidden and are easy to fill. Lack of sponson floor panels.

Available from

Tamiya;
Good model shops worldwide (www.tamiya.com)
Aber, Verlinden, Ampersand;
Historex (www.historex-agents.com)
Hauler;
Lou Stener (www.armour-models.co.uk)
Mr Surfacer;
MDC (www.modeldesignconstruction.co.uk)
Vallejo paints, Mig Productions;
Creative Models; (www.creativemodels.co.uk)
PSP;
Scale Link (www.scalelink.co.uk)

Alclad II (www.alclad2.com)
Sylmasta (www.sylmasta.com)
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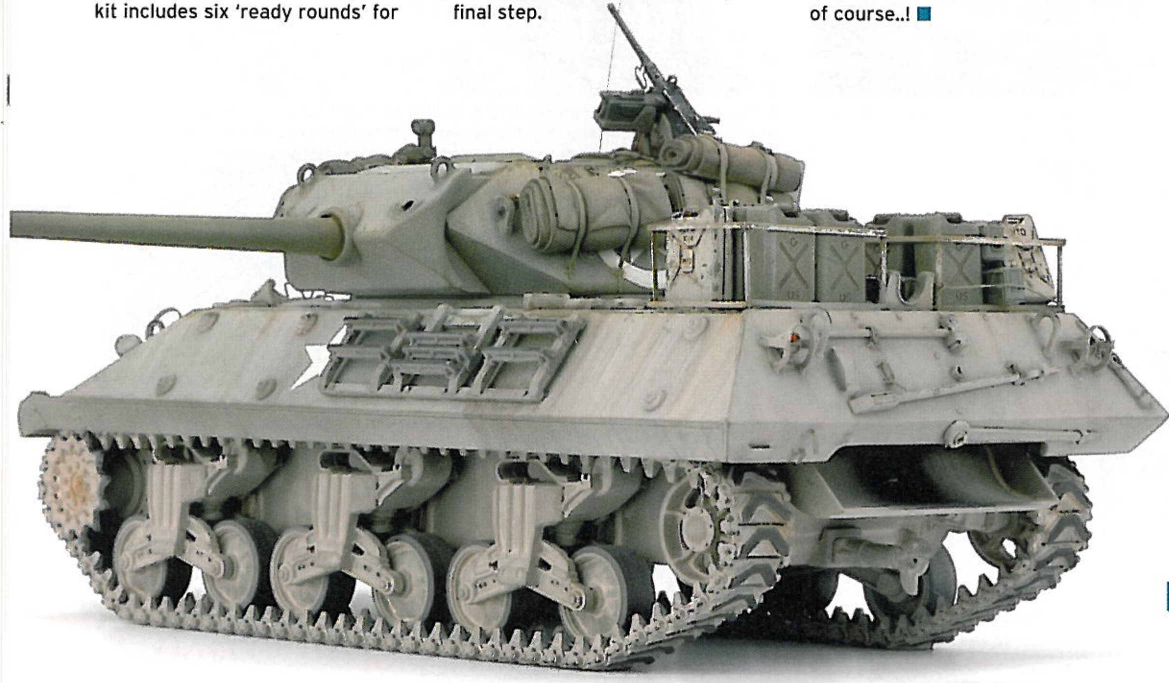

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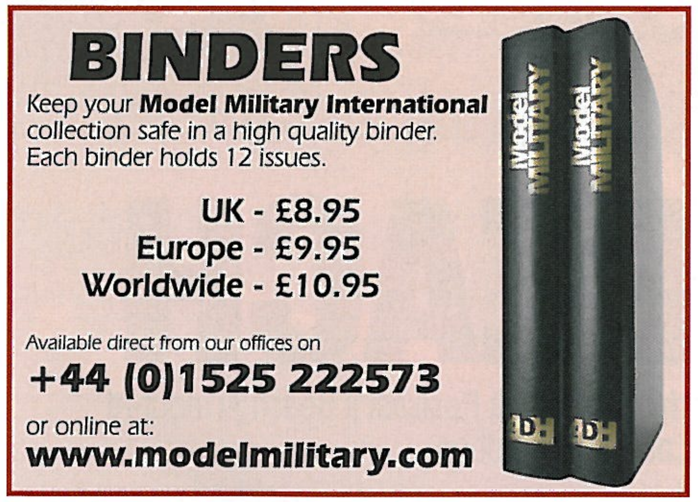

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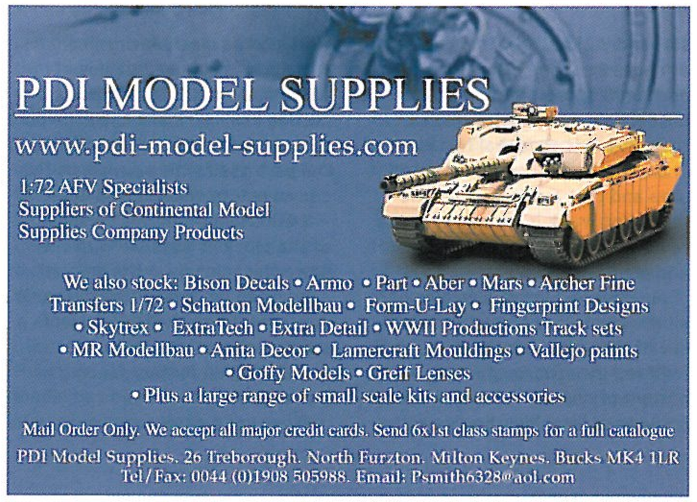

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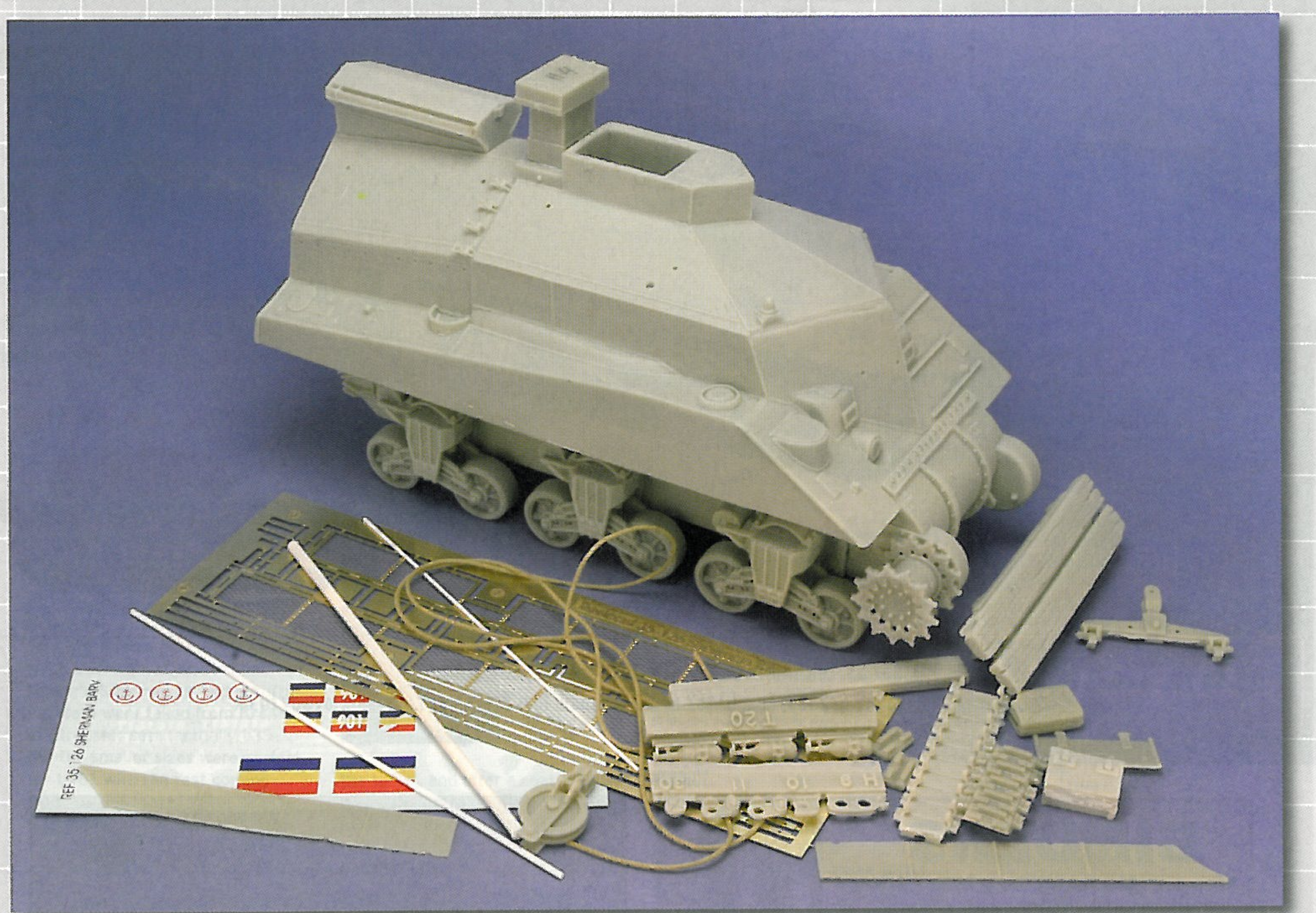
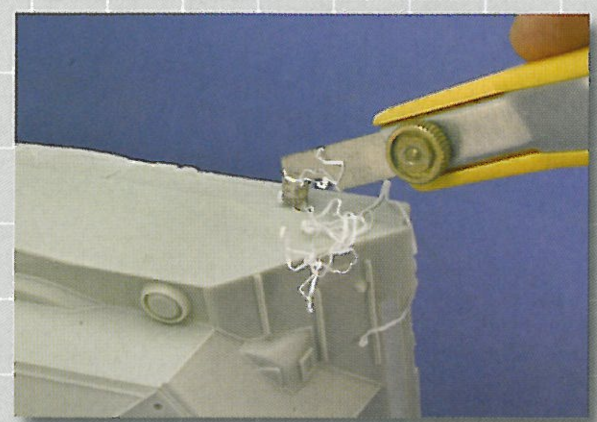
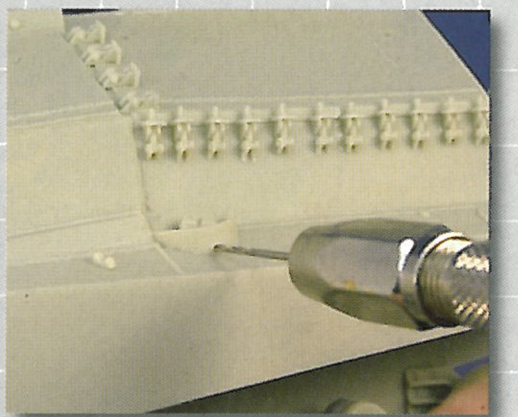


LIFE'S A BEACH

In this detailed guide to building a full resin kit, **John Murphy** takes Resicast's Beach Armoured Recovery Vehicle (BARV) and describes exactly what needs to be done...



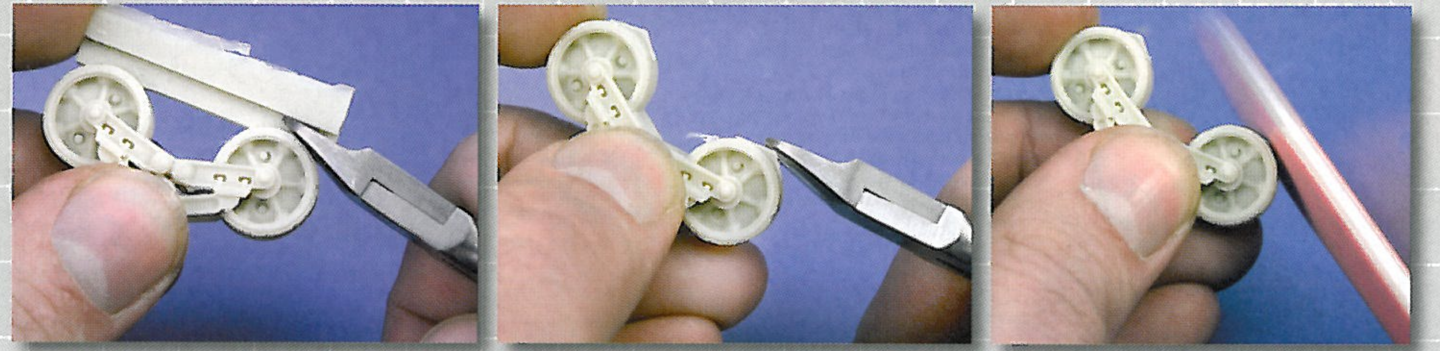
A plastic cutter such as Olfa's 'P Cutter' can be used to great effect when removing large pieces of waste resin from kit parts. It is drawn backwards, gouging out a filet of resin.



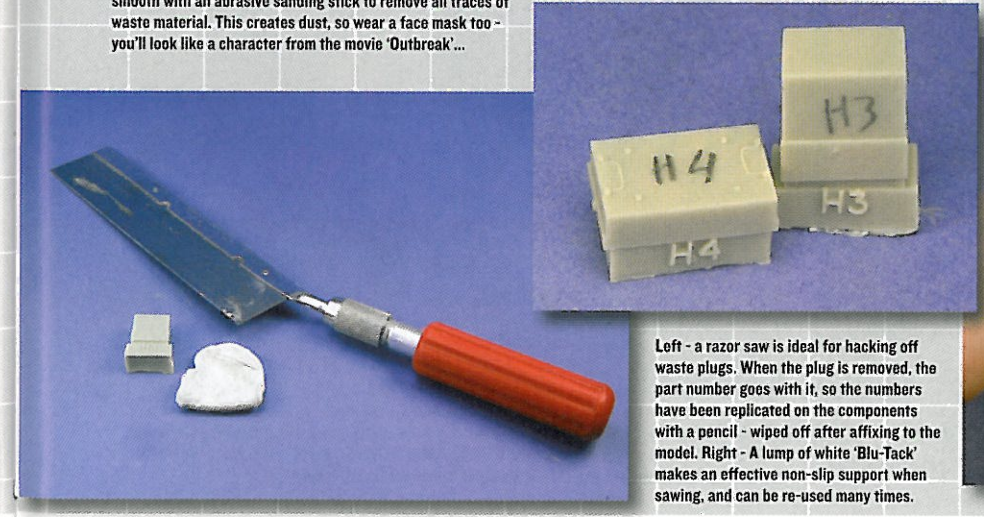
Here, a small gauge drill bit mounted in the ever handy pin vice is being used to create the water drainage holes in the fuel cap armoured surrounds.

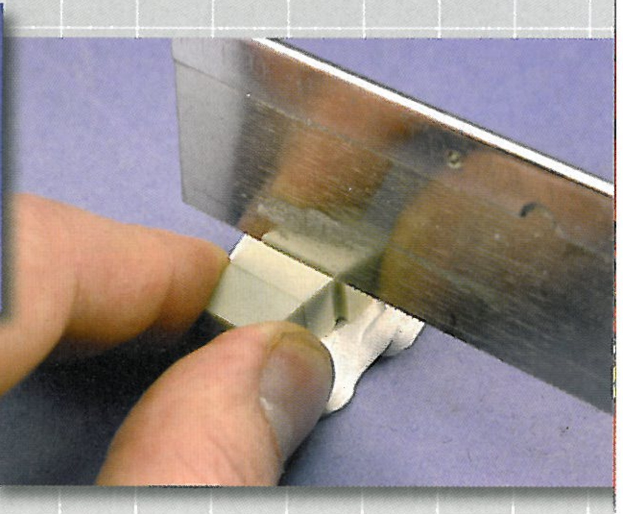
Tech Tip!

One trick to save some money instead of buying both gel type (Thick) cyano and the Regular or Thin. I tend to just buy the regular stuff and put a blob on to an old CD, if you leave it for a few minutes it starts to thicken up. The advantage of using the thicker glue is it will give you a little more working time helping to get that all important part alignment perfect before it sets!



Side-cutters such as Tamiya's can be useful for snipping off major lumps of resin sprue and trimming up close to the part, but eye protectors are essential during this operation. Finally, the kit component is sanded smooth with an abrasive sanding stick to remove all traces of waste material. This creates dust, so wear a face mask too - you'll look like a character from the movie 'Outbreak'...





Left - a razor saw is ideal for hacking off waste plugs. When the plug is removed, the part number goes with it, so the numbers have been replicated on the components with a pencil - wiped off after affixing to the model. Right - A lump of white 'Blu-Tack' makes an effective non-slip support when sawing, and can be re-used many times.

As it is our intention to feature resin kits and conversions on a regular basis in Model Military International. We thought it would be a good idea to cover some of the basics of working with this medium.

For the sake of this article we have chosen to use the recently re-tooled Sherman Beach Armoured Recovery Vehicle (BARV) from the Belgian manufacturer Resicast. This kit was chosen because it is professionally produced, straightforward to build and it typifies the quality of resin kit production available today. One of the main differences in working with resin compared to injection plastic is the amount of time it can take to clean up the parts before any building can commence.

Unlike a plastic kit where the parts are simply snipped from the sprues and are basically ready to go after some minor sanding, resin kits contain many parts that have to be cast individually, and these will often have an overpour plug (casting block) that will need careful removal. The best way to do this is with the aid of a razor saw and various grades of wet and dry abrasive paper. All this sawing and sanding can produce a lot of dust which is harmful if inhaled, therefore it is essential this work is undertaken in a well-ventilated area and that a suitable particle filter dust mask is worn. These are readily available from DIY stores and are cheap to buy.

My general plan of attack is get all the major sawing and sanding out of the way in one go if possible, followed by a thorough clean up of my work area. This way when I come to assembling the model I'm working in a clean environment and not surrounded by piles of nasty resin dust. Before I start any cutting I will normally copy the part number from the casting block onto the part itself with a pencil, as this can save lots of confusion later.

I will try and remove as much of the block as possible with the saw - this minimizes the amount of sanding to be done. I find the razor saw is easier to control and from a safety point of view generates far less dust than furious sanding or power tools.

However, not all parts need to be removed with the saw, some can be removed with a pair of side cutters, with care. This method is a little riskier than using a saw but can be a lot quicker. The wheel bogie castings on our model are a perfect example how cutters can be used to remove the casting block. This method can be seen and explained more clearly by the accompanying step-by-step photos.

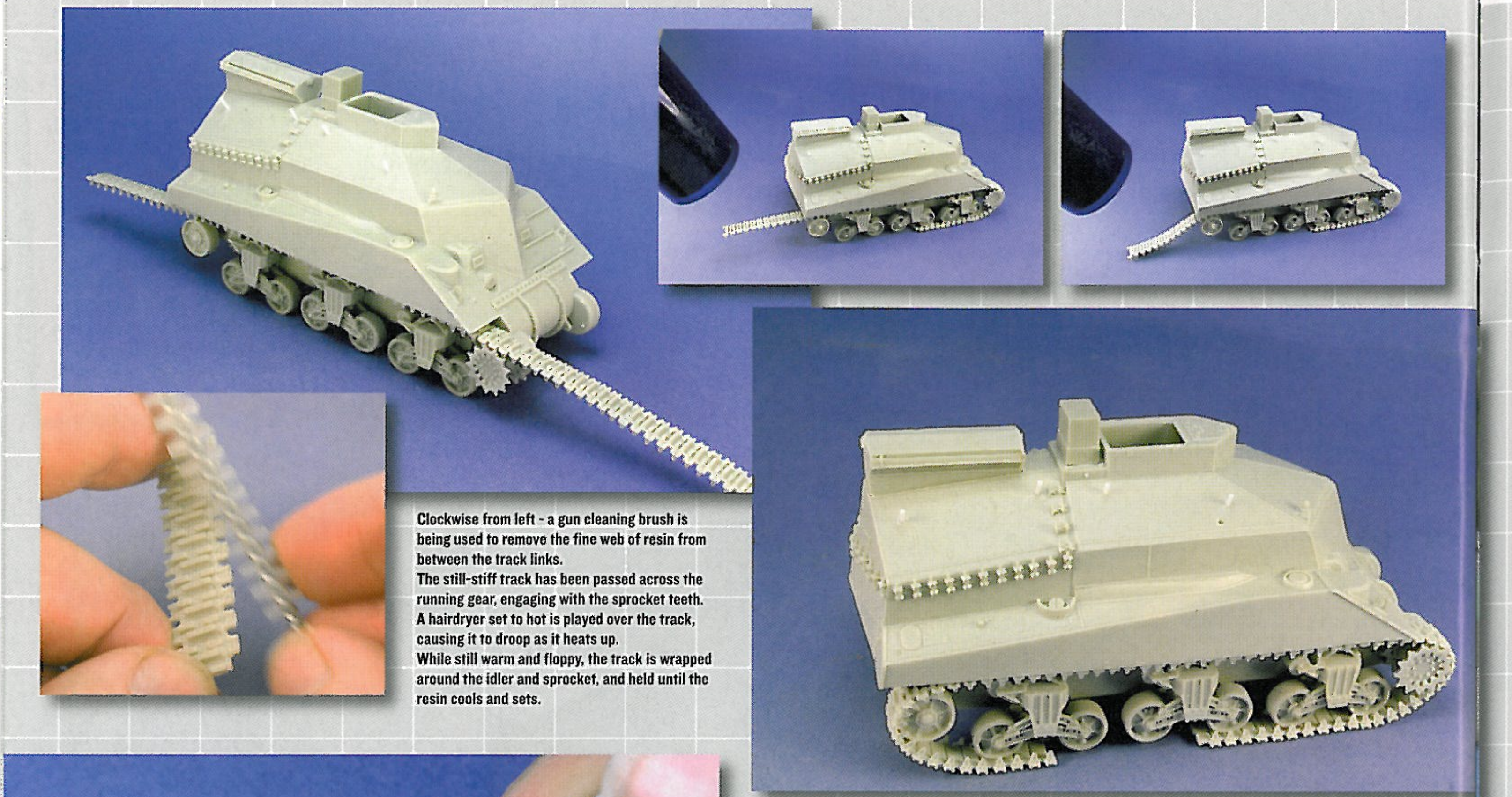
One other tool I tend to use quite often for removing parts is an Olfa P-Cutter. The upper hull on our model has been cast with a strip of excess resin running around the lower edge of the part. To remove this material the P-Cutter can be drawn repeatedly along the demarcation line until the resin is thin enough to be snapped off without fear of damaging the hull part.

TRACKS

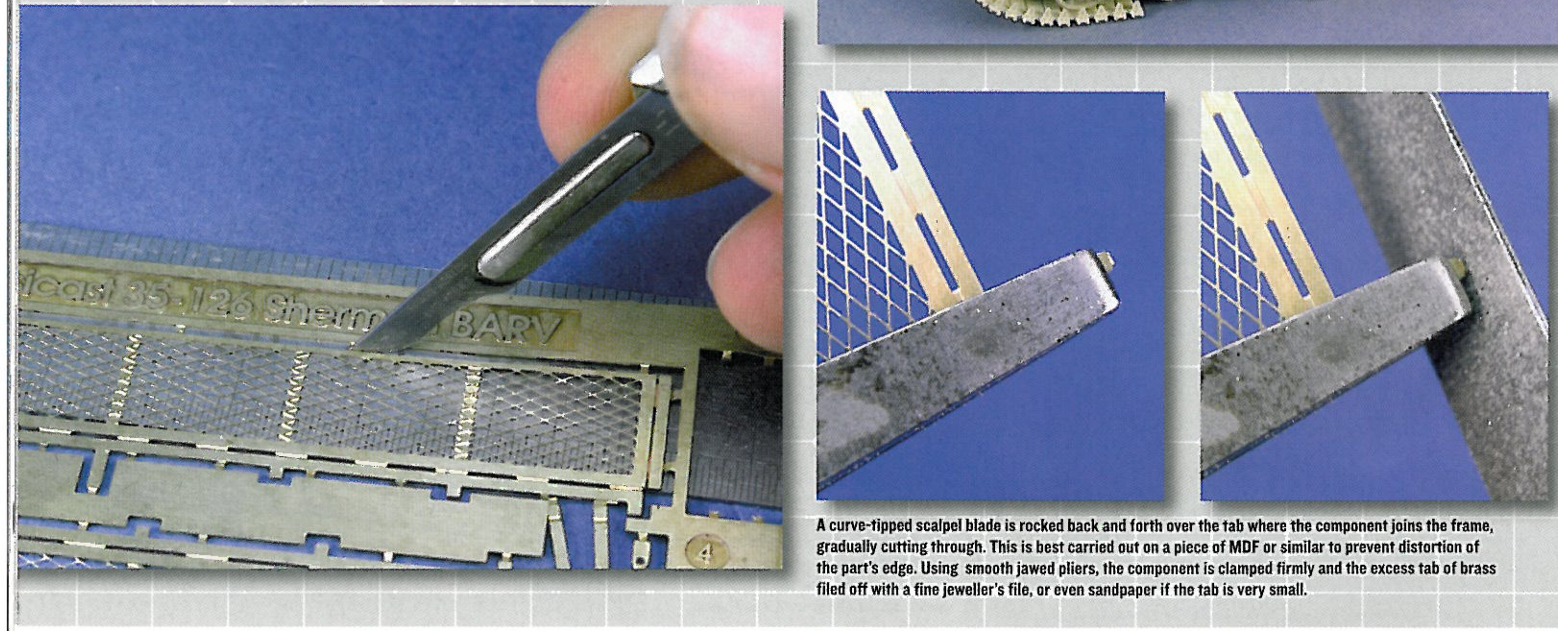
Resin tracks tend to come in one of three styles - link and length, individual link or as in our case short lengths of five or ten links. The first two tend to be the easiest to fit, where as with short length types they are not made to measure so some cutting will have to be done to get them to fit properly. The Sherman style of tracks in our kit are some of the easiest to clean up compared to some types. There is only a small amount of flash between each of the end connectors which will need to be removed. To do this I use an old barrel cleaning brush from a SA80 rifle. Obviously the easiest way to get hold of one of these is to enlist in the armed forces, but if this seems a little extreme to you, an old toothbrush with stiff bristles will do just as well...

The easiest way I have found to build and fit these tracks is to first join a number of the lengths together making a piece long enough to stick out either end of the top run. With the tracks now ready to install, it is best to work on one side at a time. The first job is to thread the track over the top of the running gear, until an equal amount protrudes from either end.

Some instructions I've read recommend dipping the tracks into very hot water. I'm personally not keen on this idea. Firstly when the tracks are this soft it is difficult to thread them over the return rollers. ▶



Clockwise from left - a gun cleaning brush is being used to remove the fine web of resin from between the track links.
The still-stiff track has been passed across the running gear, engaging with the sprocket teeth.
A hairdryer set to hot is played over the track, causing it to droop as it heats up.
While still warm and floppy, the track is wrapped around the idler and sprocket, and held until the resin cools and sets.



A curve-tipped scalpel blade is rocked back and forth over the tab where the component joins the frame, gradually cutting through. This is best carried out on a piece of MDF or similar to prevent distortion of the part's edge. Using smooth jawed pliers, the component is clamped firmly and the excess tab of brass filed off with a fine jeweller's file, or even sandpaper if the tab is very small.

◀ If this isn't done quickly enough the tracks can end up cooling too much to safely shape around the sprockets and idlers with out them breaking. Another difficulty with the hot water technique is if the model has already been painted the tracks need softening again. The hull will need to be immersed in the water as well. Needless to say this could have disastrous consequences on the paint scheme or could possibly warp the rest of the running gear!

I prefer to use a hair dryer to heat up and soften the tracks, it's easier to control and you don't have to worry about water dripping everywhere. With the tracks threaded through the top run of the suspension I simply heat one end at a time until they are soft enough to shape around the idler or drive sprocket. It is easy to tell when the track has become soft enough to manipulate, it will start to sag under it's own weight. Once one end of the track has been shaped around the running gear, I will then gently press down on the model until that end of the track has cooled sufficiently to hold its new shape and the model sits correctly. This process can now be repeated at the other end.

To link the two ends of the track, I will measure the gap between them and cut a section from one of the spare lengths. As is often the case the resulting gap might be just under or over an exact number of links! If this happens I will err on the side of caution and go for one link extra and have the tracks sagging slightly. The main reason being that resin does tend to shrink a little over time. If you make the tracks tight to start with there is a good chance they will suffer from stress cracks or worse, snapping as the resin shrinks.

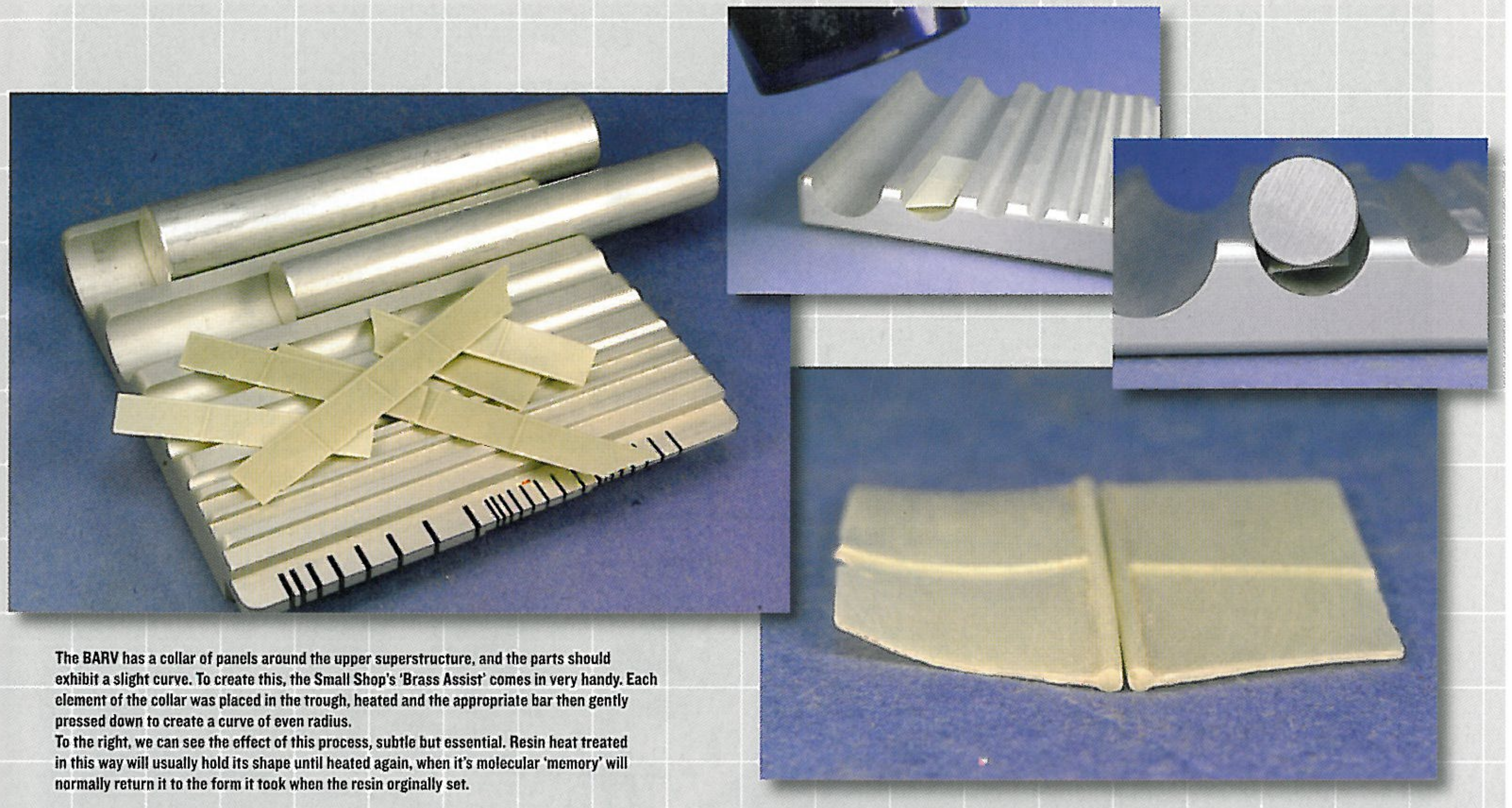
Due to the fact that the model will receive a lot of handling while the tracks are being fitted, I left off all the smaller and more delicate fixtures until after.

SUPERSTRUCTURE

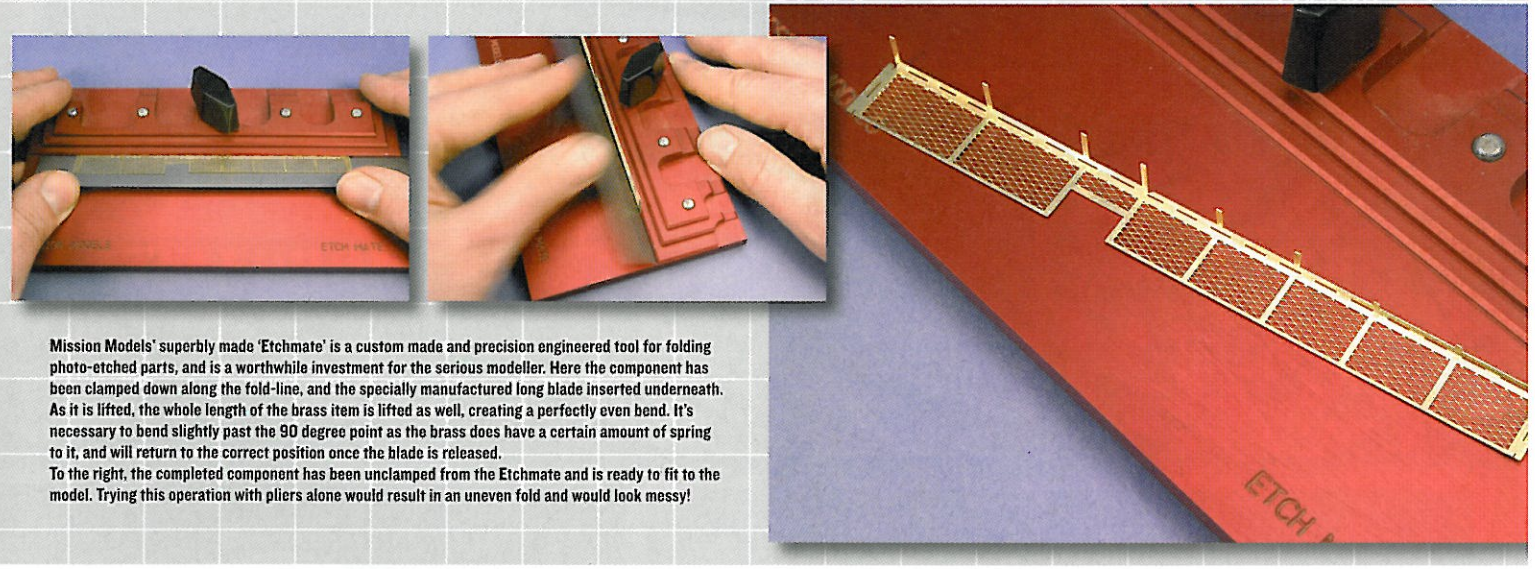
Regarding the build up of all the fixtures and fittings, the only parts that were not straightforward were the sections that made up the curved splashguard running around the top of the superstructure. These have been cast in short lengths that are flat in profile, therefore they will need to be heated and shaped to the correct curvature. Again a hair dryer is the simplest way to soften the resin. To shape the parts I used a Small Shop 'Brass Assist'. Once the parts had been heated they were then pressed in to one of the semi circular troughs on the Brass Assist with the aid of the supplied round section aluminium bar. The bar was held in place until the parts had cooled and retained their new shape. Etched brass frets increasingly make up a sizable proportion of modern resin kits. For this reason I will describe the way I deal with removing and working with these parts. Safety first, always wear some form of eye protection when any cutting is required. Treat yourself to a pair of safety glasses, as these are by far the most important items of safety equipment one should acquire. The tip of a scalpel that has snapped from the blade and becomes airborne can really spoil your day!

To remove a part from the etched brass fret, I will place the part to be removed over a steel rule. With a No.15 small curved blade fitted to my scalpel, gently rock the blade backwards and forwards over the attachment stub. I have found this action gives a nice clean cut and is a safe way as well. The method I have seen used frequently is to use a straight-edged blade and cut the attachment stub by using a dragging action. When I have attempted this I end up damaging the part as it creases, bends or crumples up due to the pressure required to make the cut. With the part removed from the fret I will then position the part in a small set off smooth jawed pliers and any unwanted stub that remains can simply be filed away with out any worry of damaging the delicate brass part.

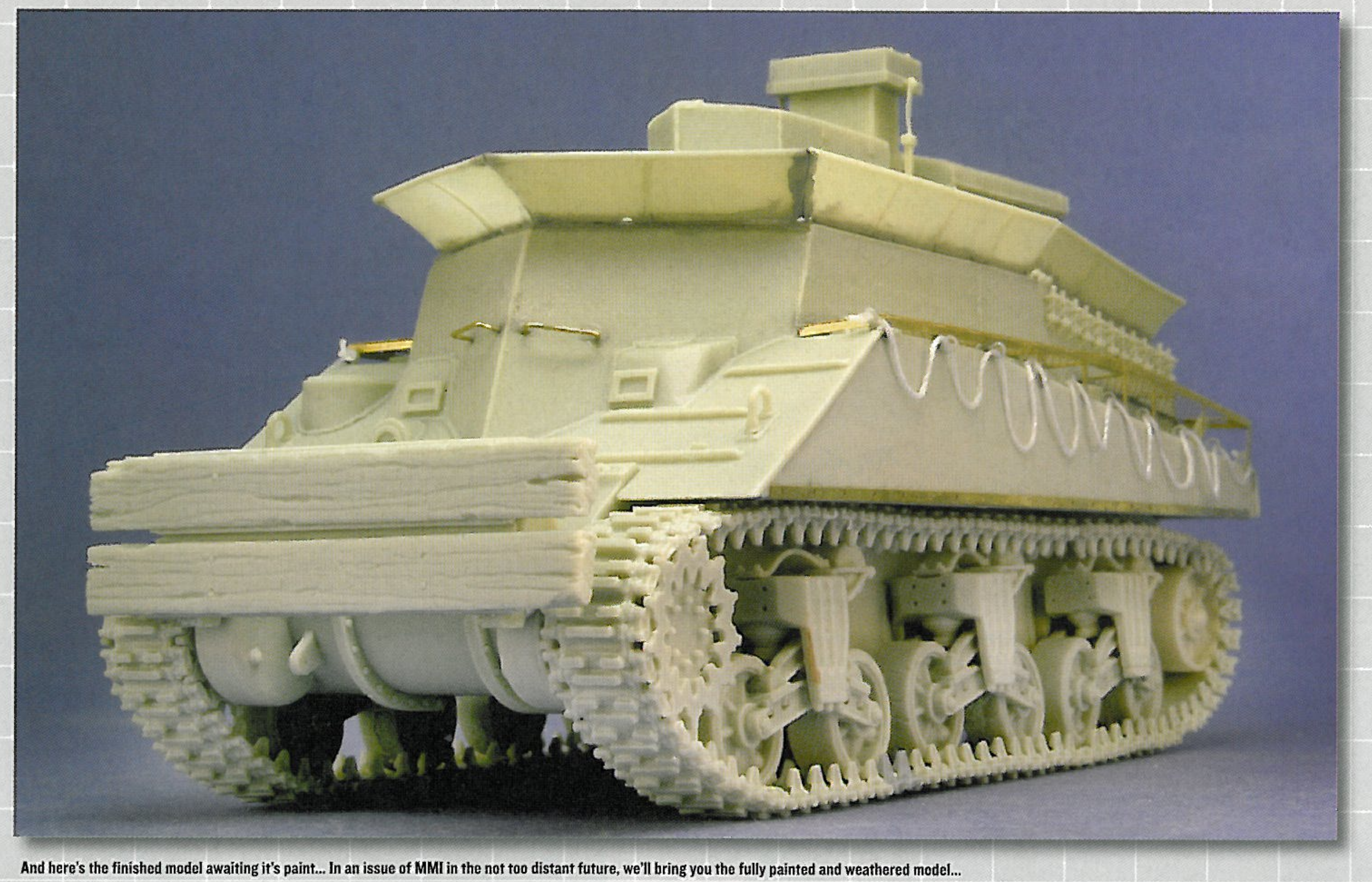
We hope this brief guide to working with brass and resin has been of some use. Don't forget the principals will be relevant for most resin and all types of etched brass. If you have never tried working with either of these mediums before, go on give it a go. It will really open a whole new side to our hobby. ■



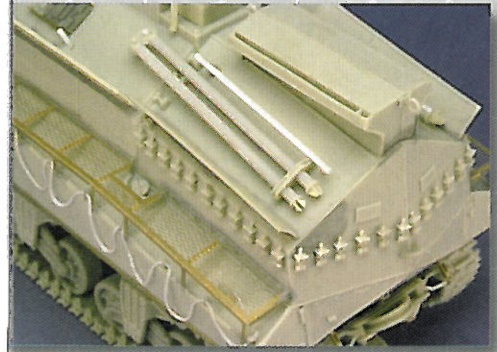
The BARV has a collar of panels around the upper superstructure, and the parts should exhibit a slight curve. To create this, the Small Shop's 'Brass Assist' comes in very handy. Each element of the collar was placed in the trough, heated and the appropriate bar then gently pressed down to create a curve of even radius.
To the right, we can see the effect of this process, subtle but essential. Resin heat treated in this way will usually hold its shape until heated again, when it's molecular 'memory' will normally return it to the form it took when the resin orginally set.

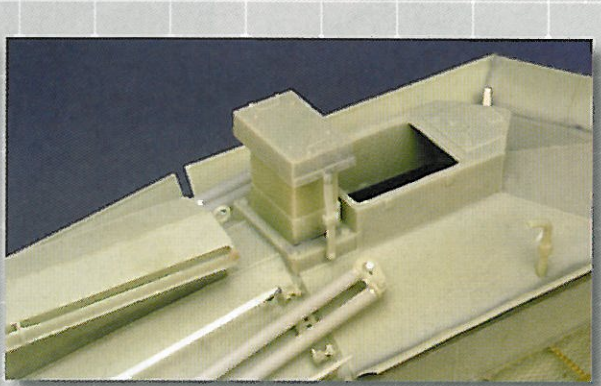


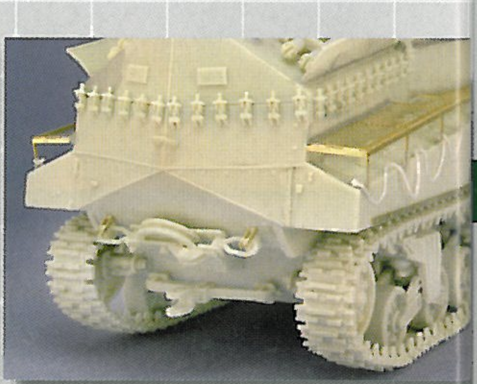
Mission Models' superbly made 'Etchmate' is a custom made and precision engineered tool for folding photo-etched parts, and is a worthwhile investment for the serious modeller. Here the component has been clamped down along the fold-line, and the specially manufactured long blade inserted underneath. As it is lifted, the whole length of the brass item is lifted as well, creating a perfectly even bend. It's necessary to bend slightly past the 90 degree point as the brass does have a certain amount of spring to it, and will return to the correct position once the blade is released.
To the right, the completed component has been unclamped from the Etchmate and is ready to fit to the model. Trying this operation with pliers alone would result in an uneven fold and would look messy!

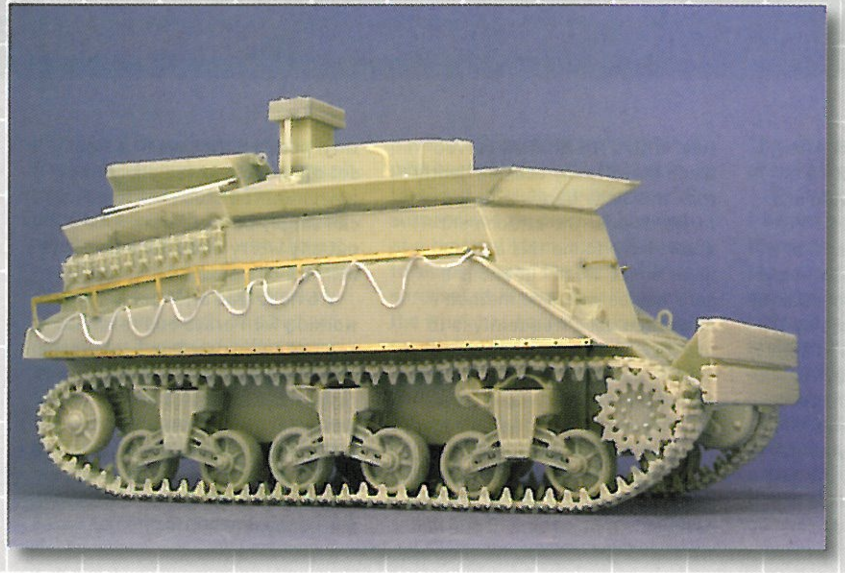


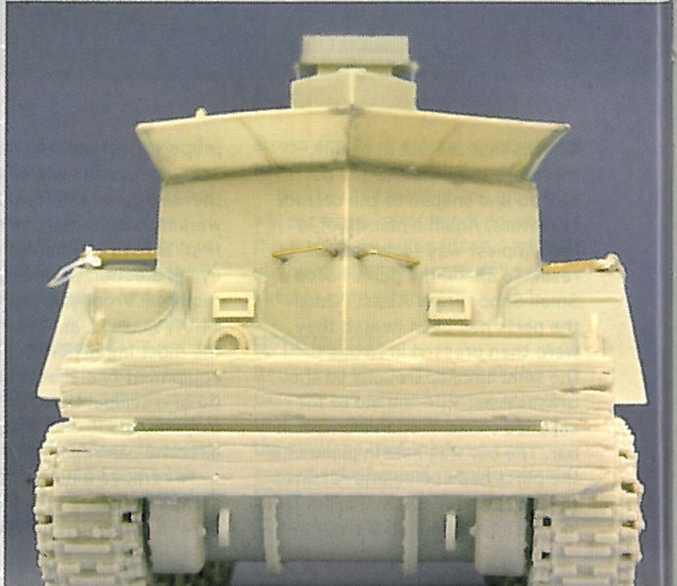
And here's the finished model awaiting it's paint... In an issue of MMI in the not too distant future, we'll bring you the fully painted and weathered model...











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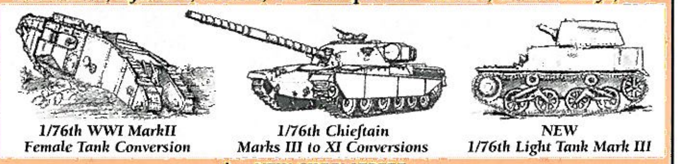
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STOCKISTS OF: Tank Workshop ∗ Warrior ∗ Ironside ∗ Azimut ∗ CMK ∗ Des Resins ∗ Nimix ∗ Resicast ∗ Phebus ∗ Jordi Rubio ∗ Aires Resins ∗ Four plus books ∗ Tamiya ∗ Hasegawa ∗ Academy ∗ Accurate Armour ∗ AFV Club ∗ Eduard etch and kits ∗ Flashback ∗ Italeri ∗ Dragon ∗ VM Models ∗ Maquette ∗ Roy Models ∗ Sovereign 2000 ∗ SEND SAE FOR CURRENT LISTINGS

FIRE MISSION!

John Murphy gets down and dirty with Great North Roads' Vietnam firebase emplacement...

Mastered by TMMI contributor Darren Thompson, this revetment is superbly rendered in fine plaster. The base measures approx 30cm square and features a typical sandbagged emplacement seen in the numerous fire support bases dotted around Southern Vietnam.

The sturdy cardboard box and ample packing did a first class job of protecting the parts through the postal system, ensuring it all arrived safe and sound and intact. The base offers an instant diorama for a single Vietnam era vehicle, Ideally a US or ARVN main battle tank or a self-propelled artillery piece, or would be perfect for the imminent release of the AFV Club Australian Centurion Mk 5/1.

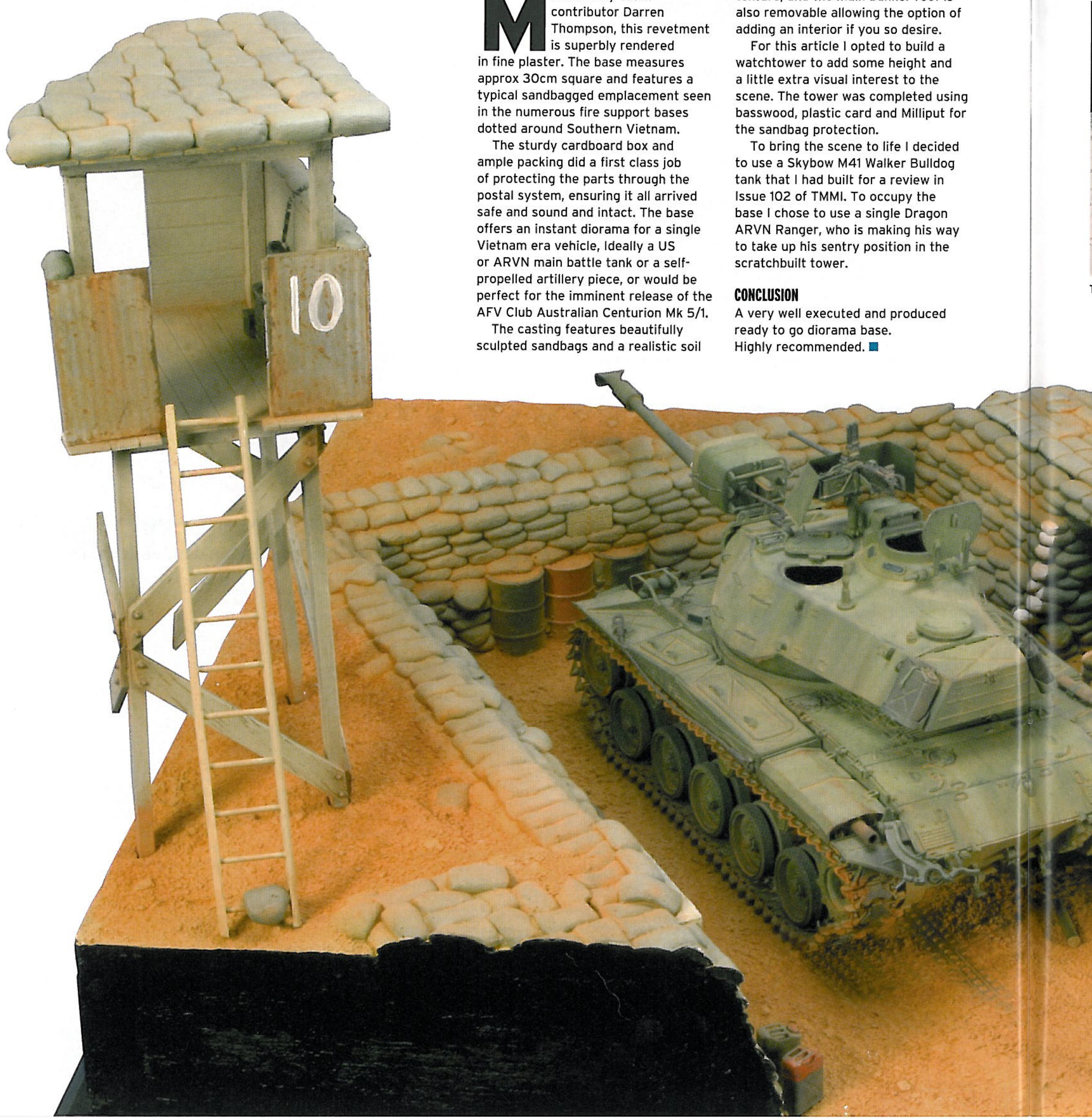
The casting features beautifully sculpted sandbags and a realistic soil texture, and the main bunker roof is also removable allowing the option of adding an interior if you so desire.

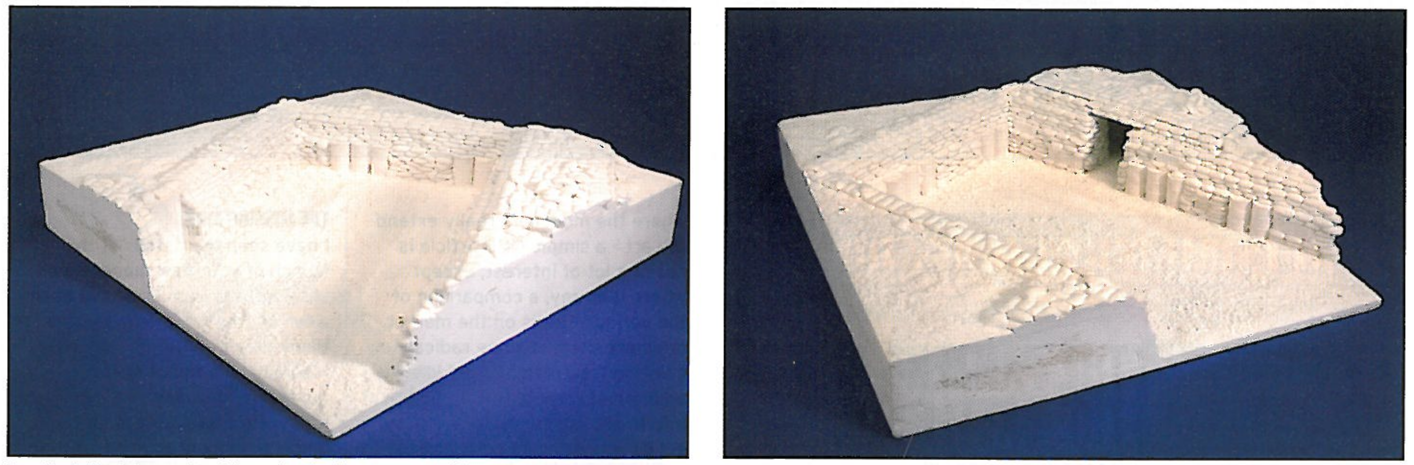
For this article I opted to build a watchtower to add some height and a little extra visual interest to the scene. The tower was completed using basswood, plastic card and Milliput for the sandbag protection.

To bring the scene to life I decided to use a Skybow M41 Walker Bulldog tank that I had built for a review in Issue 102 of TMMI. To occupy the base I chose to use a single Dragon ARVN Ranger, who is making his way to take up his sentry position in the scratchbuilt tower.

CONCLUSION

A very well executed and produced ready to go diorama base. Highly recommended. ■




Great North Roads have produced the perfect sized base measuring 30 cm square and perfect for displaying a single tank or self propelled gun for the ever popular Vietnam fire base so classic of that conflict.

The main bunker is hollow with a seperate roof, just waiting to be kitted out or lived in.

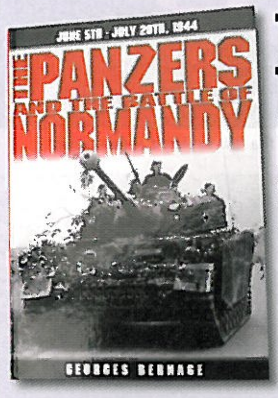
Under a colourwash the detail of the master really stands out, even the partially covered PSP planking.

The watch tower is not included with the base but was built-up from plastic card, basswood and Milliput to personalise the scene. The tower was based on some of the ones seen in the Simon Dunstan's book Vietnam Tracks.

Letters

WRITE TO:
MMI Letters, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK
Tel:01525 222573 Fax:01525 222574 Email:editor@modelmilitary.com
The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. Letters may be edited for publication.

RECOMMENDED READING


JUNE 5TH - JULY 20TH, 1944
THE PANZERS AND THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY
GEORGES BERNAGE

THE PANZERS AND THE BATTLE FOR NORMANDY

GEORGE BERNAGE, HEIMDAL
ISBN 2-84048-135-9

As a good introduction to the look of German armour during the Normandy campaign of 1944, 'The Panzers and the Battle of Normandy' is tough to beat. Within the 170 or so pages we are treated to a wealth of high quality original wartime images with some splendid views of zimmerited Panzer IVs, plus Panthers, Tiger Is plus some excellent shots of crews. In summary, this superb volume from Heimdal is well worth picking up if you want some atmospheric references for the post D-Day period.

£22 plus shipping from Barbarossa Books; www.barbarossabooks.co.uk (Search keywords 'Panzer' and 'Normandy').

REPETITION? REPETITION?

Is Model Military from the same company that prints the Tamiya Model Magazine, and if so how will it differ from that mag? As I have just signed up for a one year subscription with the Tamiya mag, will the same articles appear in both mags, or will it be a totally separate concept?

Mark Wilson

***Ed Says;* Yes, Model Military is from the Tamiya Model Magazine people, but don't worry, TMMI will continue unchanged and you will not see the same articles in both mags! You may well see the same model kits, and some familiar names building them, but not the same articles, that might be considered a rip-off...**

PREVIEWED...
TAMIYA
Model MAGAZINE INTERNATIONAL
WINTER'S TALE
SCHWIMM WHEN YOU'RE WINNING
THUNDERBIRDS ARE GO!
ANOTHER FINE MESSE
INSIDE...

ANOTHER LEVEL

I saw an announcement about your new mag on the Perth Military Modelling site and I wondered if you are superseding the Tamiya Model Magazine? Sorry to ask so bluntly, but if that's the case, where will you be aiming your articles - at the current monthly TMMI level, or at the earlier bi-monthly (or so) level? I ask because the current mag seems to me to be heading in a different direction to where it was - simpler shorter articles and more kit highlights - a direction that sees me purchasing the mag much less frequently. What I like with magazines is where the modellers really extend the art - a simple OOB article is not of a lot of interest, except where it is, say, a comparison of the various Tigers on the market, or where there is some radical new painting treatment. Also, I like the addition of prototype and historical info to set the context. Not fussy, am I!? The other thing I like a lot is a review of the aftermarket accessories and etch.

Cheers and all the best with the new mag
Nick Sheridan

***Ed Says;* Model Military will cover modelling at many levels, from basic techniques up to in depth features on advanced modelling from well known names in the hobby. There will be a common theme though - we intend every article whatever the complexity to be interesting, well written and involving for anyone who reads it. Tamiya Model Magazine has gently adapted to monthly status and at the request of many readers, it has begun to include kit previews on new releases to show what's out there in more depth than the New Releases section. It does run longer and more detailed articles too though, on a range of subjects, such as Phil Stutcinskas' amazing Type 52 locomotive in Issue 124.**

DIGITAL DIRECT

Is there any chance of you offering an electronic subscription version of Model Military International? Zinio Reader is what I currently use for MacWorld.

Kevin O'Connor, AIA
Dana Point, CA

***Ed Says;* No plans at the moment Kevin, but who knows for the future?**

KEEP 'EM BIG

Great news on the new magazine. Please develop your own layout/ design style. While I like the quality of builds in Model Airplane International, the postage stamp-sized 'detail' photos are basically useless. Check out the T-38 article, for example; there is absolutely no detail to be gleaned from the tiny photos. (Of course, I have every issue of MAI and eagerly await each issue along with TMMI!)

Thanks, Gary Emery
Air Force Special Operations Forces
Hurlburt Field, Fla

***Ed Says;* With MMI, we intend to keep those model photos big, as we are working in a visual medium, and small pics are of limited usefulness as you rightly say. We'll pass your comments on to our colleagues on MAI...**

THE MISSING LINK

I have seen the details of the launch of your new magazine on Missing-Lynx.com and have been a fan of your style of magazine for many years.
I have been a fan of military modelling for many years and buy most of the available magazines and try my hand at many of the scales available.
My question to you is will you please make your title about modelling! I am really not a fan of uniforms, military history or related subjects - don't get me wrong I know the full size subjects give perfect reference but it seems the magazines available avoid the actual issues of how to make better models! From your description I see you will not feature aircraft and that is fine with me as the AFV area is my interest, but can you please show us how to achieve the paint finishes I see in your TMMI magazine, how to create the dioramas and how to paint figures convincingly. These are all subjects that are skipped over in a few paragraphs and not actually shown step-by-step.
Looking forward to high quality photos and models - but show us how!

Dave Harlow

***Ed Says;* Thanks for your letter – good to see that our partnership with Missing-Lynx is working well! We feel EXACTLY like you Dave, we know from experience that showing how to make models is really hard, making a model in a photography environment so that pictures can be taken is tough but with Model Military that is what we aim to do. We may not always get it right but we are going to try...**

SCALING DOWN

First of all good luck with your new magazine - I love TMMI and expect the new magazine to be just as good!
Can you tell me why Tamiya are making the new 1:48 scale and not making as many 1:35 models like they used to?

Stephen James

***Ed Says;* Now there's a question! Well Tamiya are the leaders for modelling on the planet, there are many other companies competing against them but there is still no company that covers all types of modelling to the high quality that Tamiya does. For example they are World Champions in RC Car Racing and as you will know leaders still in Scale Modelling. What this means is that they tend to lead, and others follow. They create classes and scales. Their new 1:48 series is just another example of Tamiya and in particular Mr S Tamiya's foresight and creativity. We love the 1:48 scale and because of its smaller size it opens opportunities for dioramas etc – also in Japan they lack space and the new scale has gone down very well with modellers...**
As far as we know Tamiya will continue with their 1:35 models – and we will report on the latest items when we visit the Shizuoka Hobby Show in May.

DOWN N DIRTY

I can never really make my mind up on how to finish my models, I really don't like the look of overly clean "straight out of the factory" finish models (like the Tamiya adverts) but also whenever I "dirty" up my models I never seem to get the look I'm after and just seem to loose the detail and make the model look a mess... I have seen some excellent examples of weathering at the IPMS Nationals when I visited in 2004 and 2005. Is there any good books available on weathering and heavy dirtying up of models?

Mieke Farguharson

***Ed Says;* Finishing armour models is what modelling these subjects is all about - and it can be hard to get the right finish. We produced a book a few years ago on Tamiya's Tiger which had some weathering techniques but we aim to cover this subject in detail in Model Military. We agree that Tamiya's "clean" finish used in their adverts and indeed on their available finished models is not to our taste but is does show the model as it comes and offers the buyer a clean look at what they are getting so we understand why Tamiya finish their models this way. Please write to us and let us know exactly what you are looking for - it's letters like yours and requests that will help us make Model Military a magazine You all want.**

LETTER OF THE MONTH

As of next month we will feature a letter of the month, for which you will receive a mystery prize (To be announced). So lets have your views and opinions on everything military including our first issue. Just write to:

MMI Letters
ADH Publishing
Doolittle Mill
Doolittle Lane
Totternhoe
Bedfordshire
LU6 1QX. UK

or email:
editor@modelmilitary.com

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

HI folks! This is the part of the magazine where you get to have your say, be it good, bad or indifferent, but obviously I hope they are all nice comments... If not, please bear in mind I still have lots of connections in the Royal Air Force, so if you have any negative points you want to make about MMI, the reply you may receive could well be attached to a 2000lb laser guided bomb that's headed towards your letterbox as you read this!! Just kidding of course! If there is anything you would like to comment on please feel free to drop us a line and we will publish the printable ones.

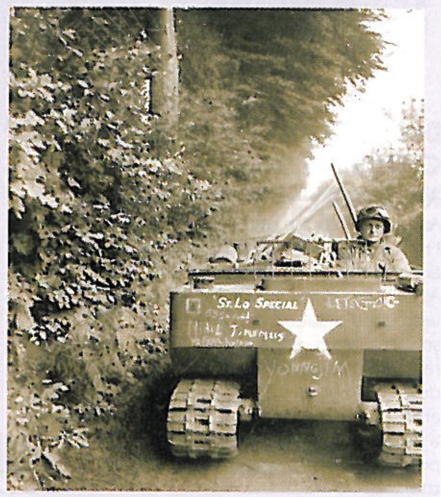
See you again on May 4th!

Spud
John 'Spud' Murphy

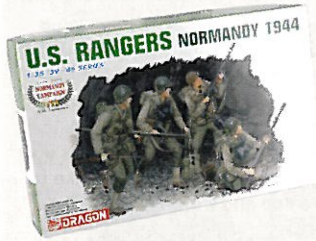
JUST GOTTA BUILD IT!

WE TAKE A CLASSIC PHOTOGRAPH FROM WORLD WAR TWO THAT'S JUST CRYING OUT TO BE TURNED INTO A MINIATURE SCENE...

Some of the most evocative images of the Second World War were taken during the Normandy campaign, when many photojournalists were in the battle zone, shooting everything and anything for the official, and unofficial records. A good amount of this material is still 'classified' and buried deep within government archives and we'll have to wait a few more years to see them, but there are some images in the public domain that are so full of character that they warrant an inclusion, if only to get the modelling juices flowing. This shot of an American serviceman driving an M29 Weasel entitled 'St Lo Special' through a typical Normandy bocage lane is perhaps the best known shot of this charismatic little tracked machine, and if ever a scene was crying out to be made into a diorama, this is it! So all we need is a nice crisp, newly tooled 1:35 kit of the Weasel - any takers?

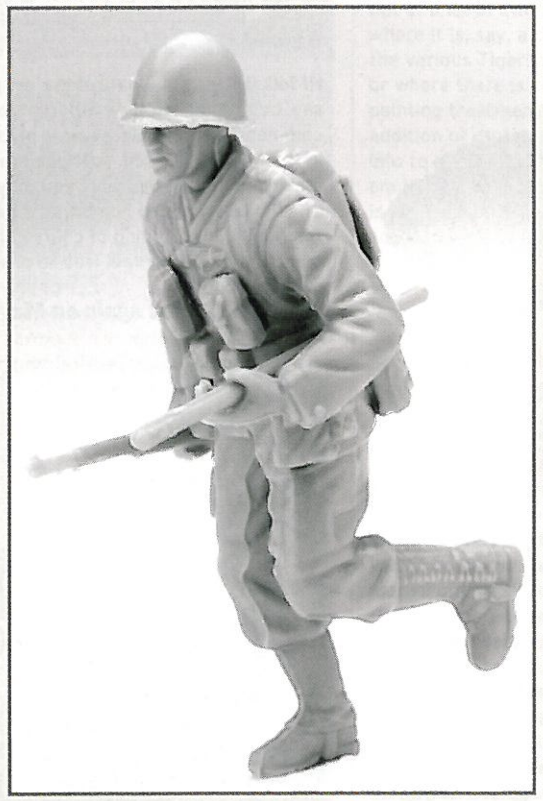


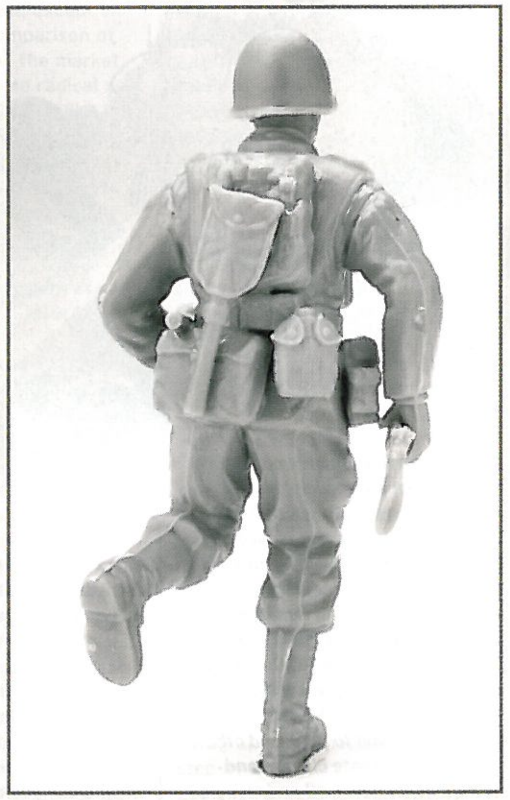
Figures - A round-up of the latest figured sets on release...

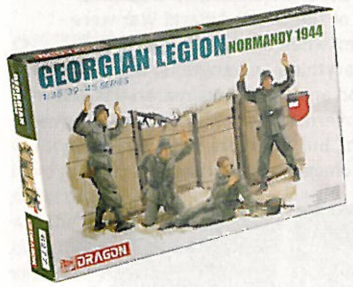


Dragon 1:35
US RANGERS
Normandy 1944 No.6235

This ranger set is a re-issue of one of their early releases with the inclusion of an extra sprue containing a couple of beach obstacles, namely log posts with Teller mines affixed to the tops. The detail on these figures is rather soft compared to all of the latest releases. Mould seams are prominent on many of the parts especially on the arms and legs. Still a usable set but will require some major cleaning up of these mould seems and while you are at it a new set of heads wouldn't go a miss. This set certainly looks dated compared to the latest releases from Dragon.

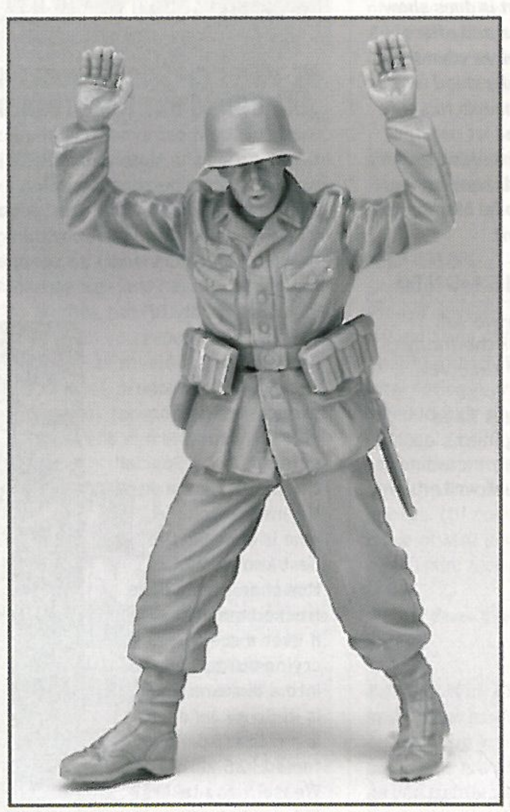


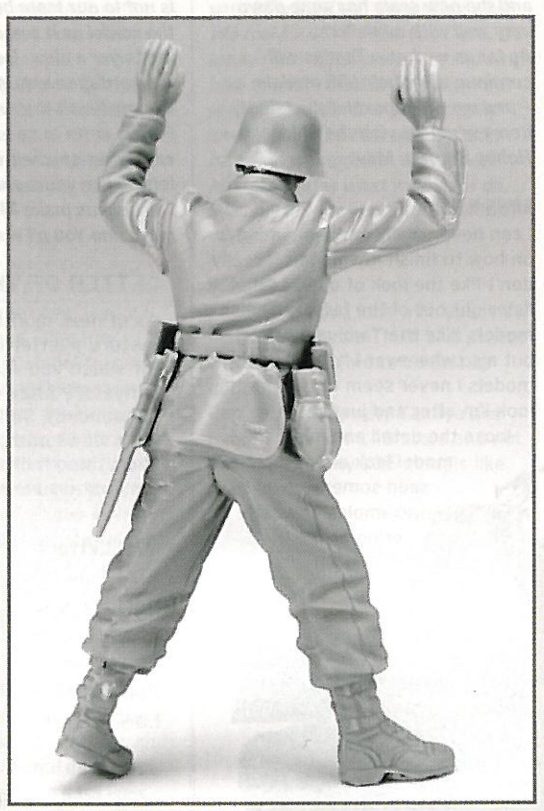




Dragon 1:35
GEORGIAN LEGION
Normandy 1944 No.6277

An unusual choice of subject, but I'm sure they will be warmly received and have great diorama potential. All of the figures are nicely animated with good detailing and beautifully sculpted heads. Rumour has it that renowned Artist Ron Volstad, who does much of the Dragon box artwork painted this set as a bit of a joke. Dragon went ahead and produced them anyway and I'm glad they did.





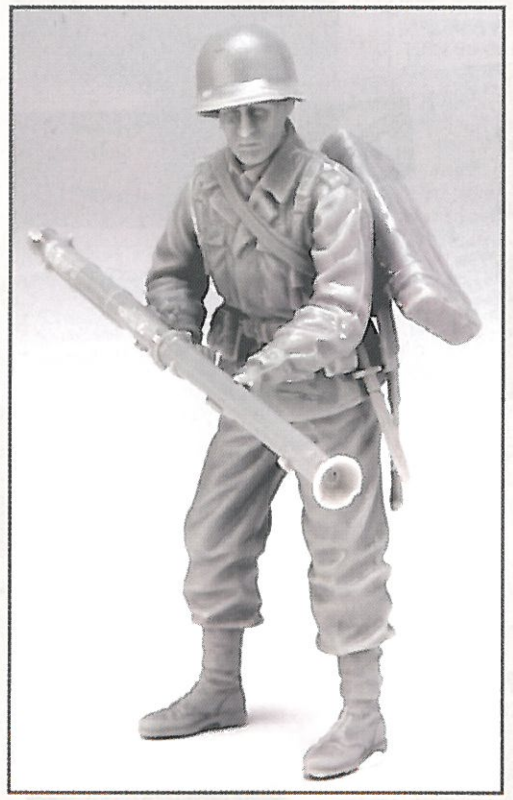
U.S. ARMY ANTI-TANK TEAM
DRAGON

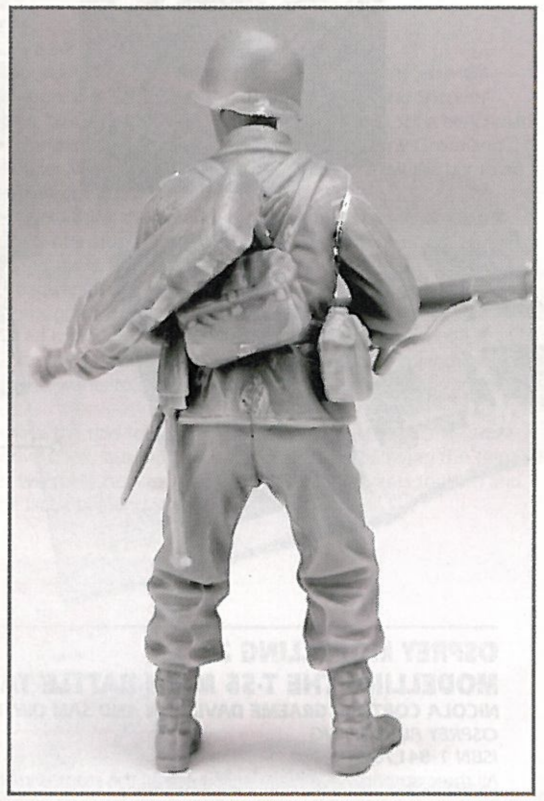
Dragon 1:35
US ARMY
ANTI-TANK TEAM
No.6237

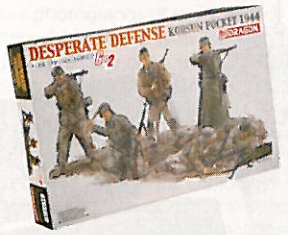
This set consists of four figures, the first two form a bazooka team dressed M-1941 pattern uniforms and armed with the M1A1 2.36 inch rocket launcher. The remaining pair are dressed in M-1943 pattern uniforms, the first is armed with a M1 Garand rifle fitted with an M9A1 anti tank grenade, the second is carrying the later M9A1 two piece rocket launcher.

All four are nicely detailed, however the fit of the sample figure I chose to build was less than perfect. It was impossible to get him to hold the launcher properly with out some surgery.

Still a very useful set and excellent value for money.



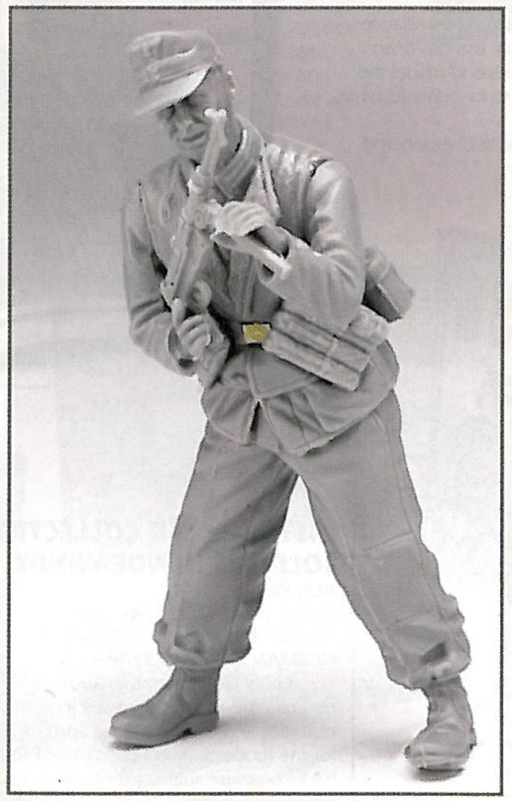


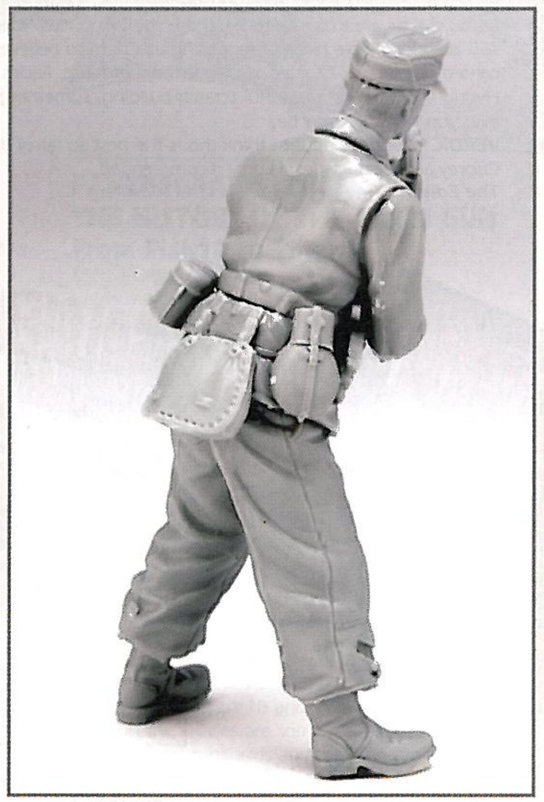


Dragon 1:35
DESPERATE DEFENCE
Korsun Pocket 1944
No.6273

These generation 2 figures are stunningly detailed, but they are more complex to put together than Dragon's first generation sets. Each figure is now broken down into a lot more parts to keep the detail sharp and the clothing all has realistic undercuts. However the fit of some of these parts isn't perfect. One of the down sides to making something more complex I suppose!

In my opinion the extra level of detail, the etched brass fret and the incredibly well detailed weapons more than makes up for the fact I may need to use a bit of filler and the poses don't look quite as natural as the box top.





Book Reviews

Osprey Modelling
OSPREY PUBLISHING
Modelling the T-55 Main Battle Tank
Nicola Cortese, Graeme Davidson & Sam Dwyer

OSPREY MODELLING 20
MODELLING THE T-55 MAIN BATTLE TANK

NICOLA CORTESE, GRAEME DAVIDSON AND SAM DWYER
OSPREY PUBLISHING
ISBN 1-84176-900-2

All three authors have really pulled out all the stops with this title. The models are truly inspirational, and the photography is some of the best I have seen in this series of books. The text is both informative and interesting to read with out being heavy going on these involved conversions. Graeme builds a Czech T-55AM2B (Kladivo) the finished model looks superb with a realistic backdrop and the running gear that's been 'Photoshopped' to simulate movement. Sam builds a knocked- out Iraqi type 69-II. No easy task, but Sam has done an awesome job of making this difficult subject look amazingly realistic. Nick tackles an Afghan T-55A and a Bosnian T-55/M18 Hybrid.

Both projects are truly masterful, the first of his builds, the Northern Alliance T55 is an incredible piece of modelling. It's hard to believe all this has been carried out on a 1:72 scale model. Simply stunning, Nick's second model the Hybrid is a lesson in masterful scratch building, something to be admired what ever you standard may be.

VERDICT; Without doubt I think this is the best so far of the ever expanding Osprey Modelling series. Highly recommended.

The Editor

SdKfz 250/1 Alt 'GD' LIVING HISTORY

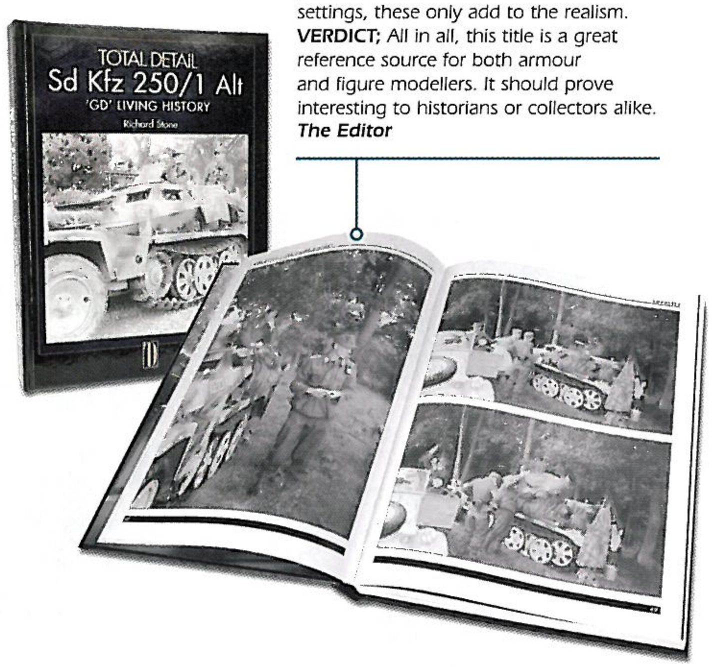
RICHARD STONE
TOTAL DETAIL
www.totaldetail.com
ISBN 1-904900-00-3

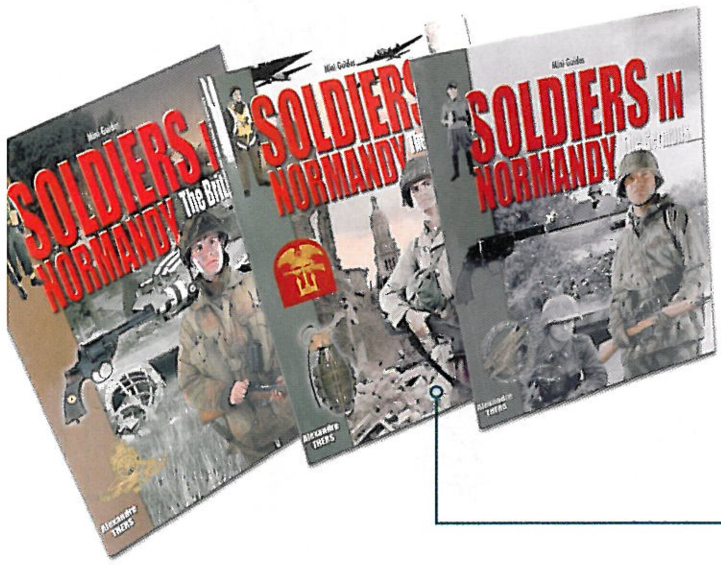
When I first flicked through I thought I was looking at actual wartime photos! It wasn't until I looked a bit closer at the sub- title 'Living History' that I realised it was a beautifully restored halftrack crewed by authentically dressed re-enactors and not original war time photos!

The book is superbly produced in large format hardback form, containing over 300 pages all printed on high quality paper. Some of the book's highlights include over 250 Black and White photos and over 450 colour photos. Including uniforms, weapons and equipment. I was particularly impressed that some of the re-enactment photos were staged in period urban areas as well as winter settings, these only add to the realism.

VERDICT; All in all, this title is a great reference source for both armour and figure modellers. It should prove interesting to historians or collectors alike.

The Editor





HISTOIRE AND COLLECTIONS MINI GUIDES
SOLDIERS IN NORMANDY

ALEXANDRE THERS
BRITISH ISBN 2-915239-44-4
AMERICAN ISBN 2-915239-45-2
GERMAN ISBN 2-915239-43-6

These Mini Guides contain 35 pages including both wartime shots and colour photos of re-enactors dressed in authentic period uniforms and together with historical accounts of battles and the units involved. These booklets are great for the modeller who doesn't want to payout for the larger and expensive hard backs on these subjects, but still wants to get the benefit of some really useful reference pictures.

VERDICT; A useful and informative guide to the men and equipment used during this campaign.

The Editor

F.A.Q.
Frequently Asked Questions of the AFV painting techniques
by Mig Jiménez
ANDREA PRESS

FAQ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS OF THE AFV PAINTING TECHNIQUES

MIG JIMENEZ
ANDREA PRESS
ISBN 84-96527-62-X

When I started building armour back in the early nineties the essential modelling references then were the Verlinden Way series and Sheperd Paine's Modelling Tanks and Military Vehicles. These books set a benchmark in styles and a standard we all strived for. Then in 1995 Tony Greenland produced his Panzer Modelling Masterclass book. This raised the bar to an even higher level in our quest to perfect our skills.

Now a decade later I think the baton has been well and truly handed to Mig, this book is a one-stop reference to all of the techniques and terms that are synonymous with our branch of the hobby today.

This hefty 255 page soft back covers everything from setting up your working area through to the many techniques Mig uses to achieve his stunning work. All topics are covered comprehensively with beautifully clear photos and easy to follow captions. This is a must for any armour modelling fan who wants to improve their painting techniques and learn all those secrets.

VERDICT; I believe the title sells for around £40 in the UK, this may seem a rather expensive book, but most definitely worth it. Following the step-by-step guides will really help to improve anyone who wants to learn and improve on the latest painting style.

The Editor

TOPSHOTS - BMP-2

KAGERO

For vehicles in 1:35 and 1:72 scales.

As a modeller, you can't go wrong with this photo album approach. One of a series of small landscape formatted publications consisting of over 150 colour photographs of every aspect of the vehicle. If that wasn't enough, also included is a decal sheet for three vehicles (Russian, Czech and Polish) in both 1:35 and 1:72 scales. The book has a short historical introduction and the photos are captioned in English and Polish. The principal vehicle covered is in Czech service and overall dark green in colour but examples of Russian, Polish and Slovakian vehicles are also shown.

VERDICT; A great little book giving more than enough detail for the modeller and at a price that equates to a couple of monthly magazines.

Great value!

Paul Egerton

TOPSHOTS - M3A1 STUART

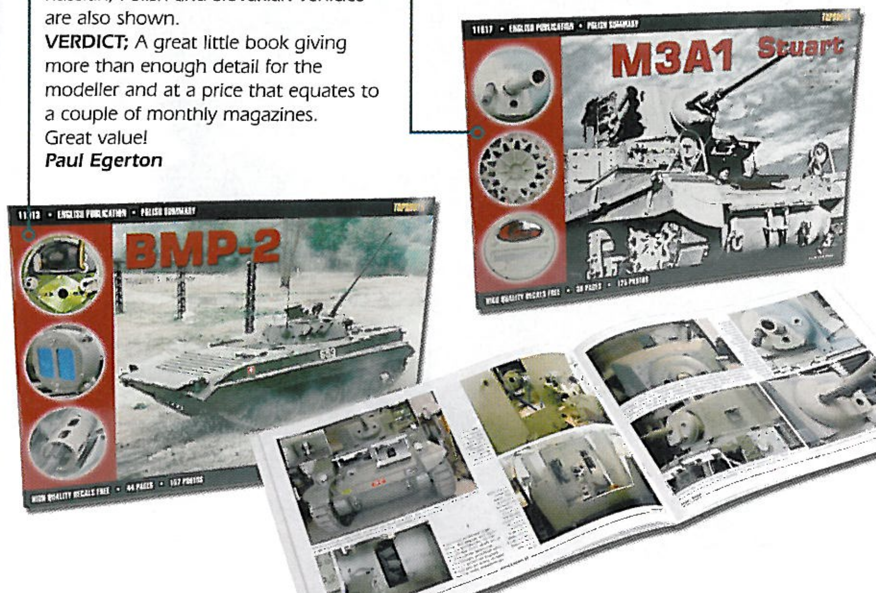
KAGERO

Another in the 'Topshot' series and similar in format to the BMP-2 publication with this one having a slightly more comprehensive introduction (5 pages) and 125 detailed photos of a couple of museum vehicles. Short on detailed interior shots but there are a couple of the engine and its compartment. Once again, there are decals included for American vehicles.

VERDICT; Competitive price.

Collect them all

Paul Egerton



Panzer Graph!
MAGAZINE FOR MILITARY MODELERS
1 ISSUE SUMMER 2005
THE HISTORY OF THE 88 cm GUN
MODELART

PANZERGRAPH ISSUE 1
THE HISTORY OF THE 8.8CM GUN
From Flak18 to Tiger II

MODELART, CO. LTD.
www.modelart.jp

Panzer Graph is a new quarterly publication from the team at Model Art Publishing, Japan. The magazine consists of 164 full colour pages packed full of great photos of the models along with articles featuring models and reference articles on weapons that carried or mounted the dreaded 88mm gun. The style is unmistakably Japanese featuring superb photography, interesting models and some very dynamic and imaginative dioramas. The painting style is somewhat different to that adopted in Europe, to me this makes it all the more interesting to look at and study the modellers. Unfortunately only the titles of each article is in English, the rest of the text being in Japanese. A great magazine on a popular subject matter that's well worth a look at.

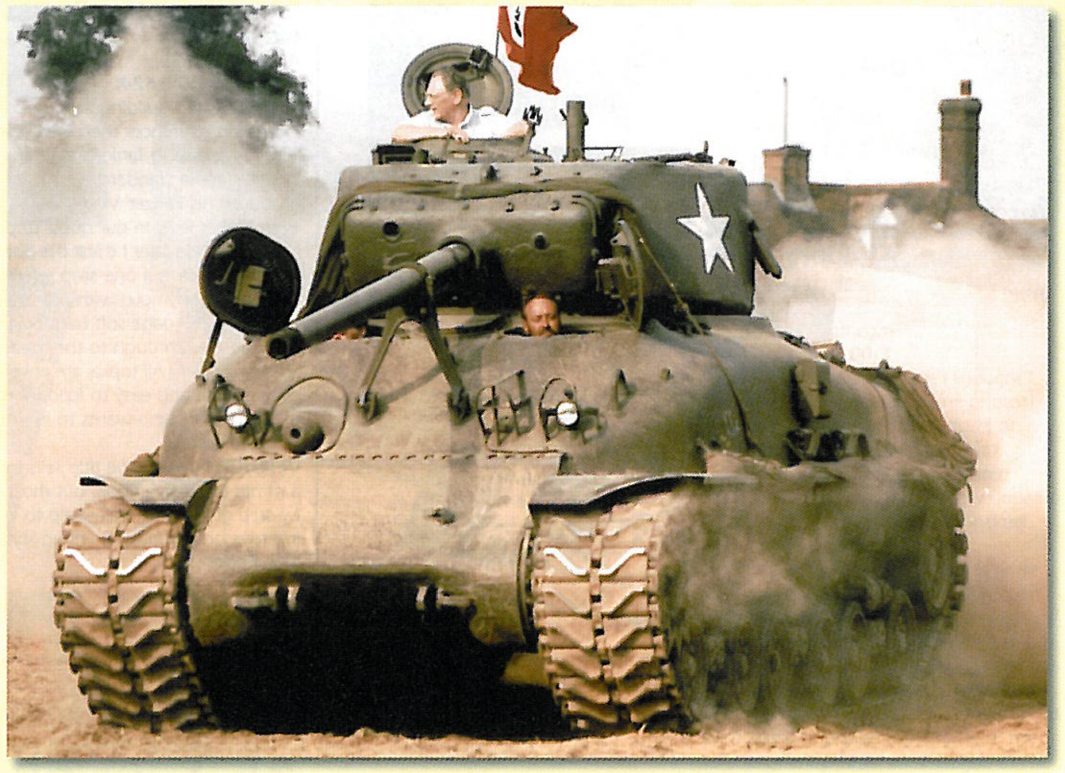
VERDICT; Included are walk around photos of both preserved Flak 18 and 37's. Interspersed through the articles are some really useful photos of equipment, uniforms and ammunition associated with these weapons.

The Editor

One of the regular features we aim to bring to the pages of MMI is a reference section of photos featuring full size vehicles and equipment, including uniforms, weapons and general detail shots. We will also include photos of weathering effects, paint finishes and textures all of which we hope will prove useful for detailing or painting future projects. Our goal over the coming issues is to be able to help our readers build up a library of material on all topics that may just come in handy one day.

To coincide with our techguide on assembling white metal tracks we thought it would be appropriate for our first to include a selection of pictures to show various track types and the way they weather.

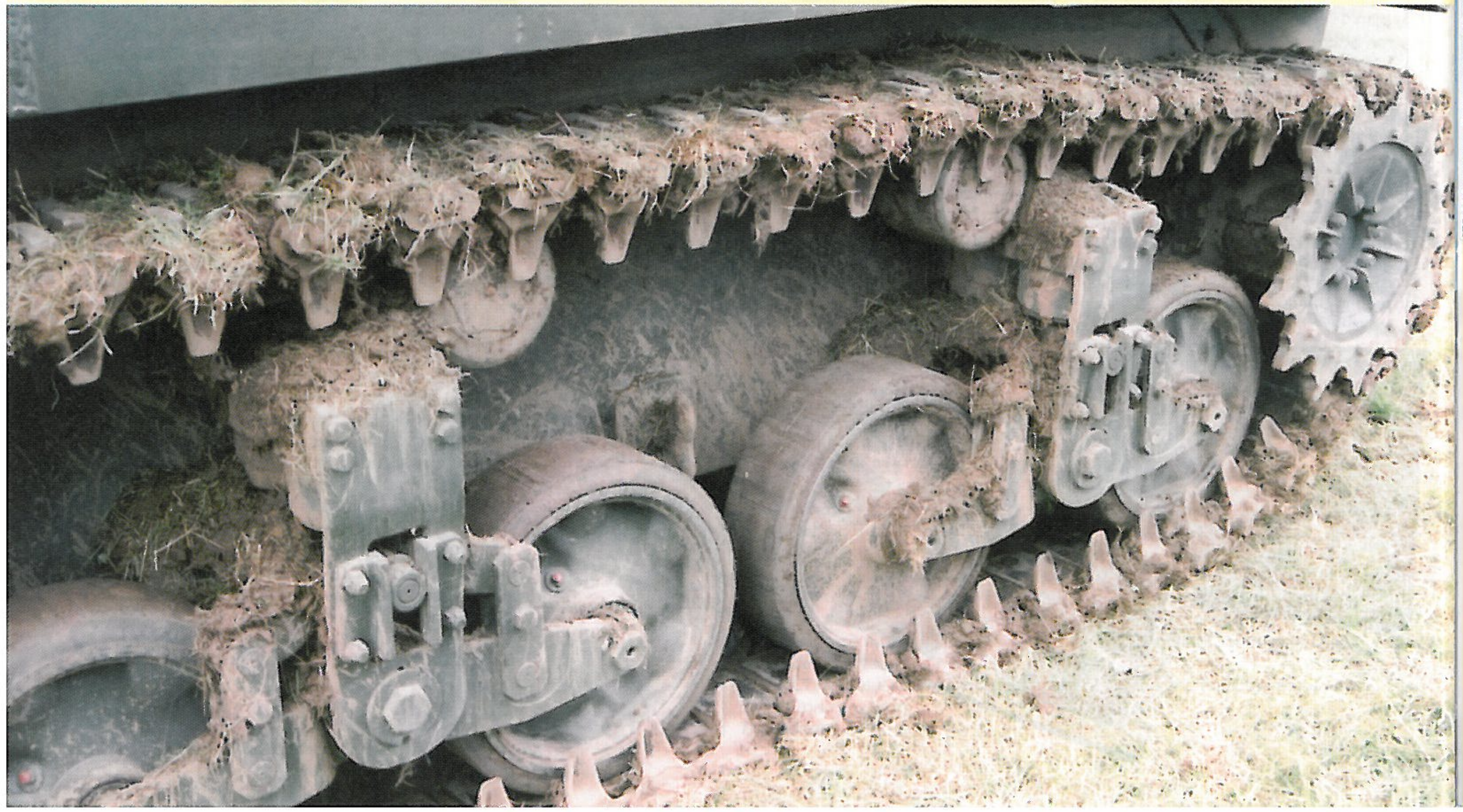
As you can see we haven't flooded the pages with lots of small photos that tend to not be of any real use. By keeping the number of photos down we can reproduce them larger and therefore hopefully be an invaluable reference source. ■

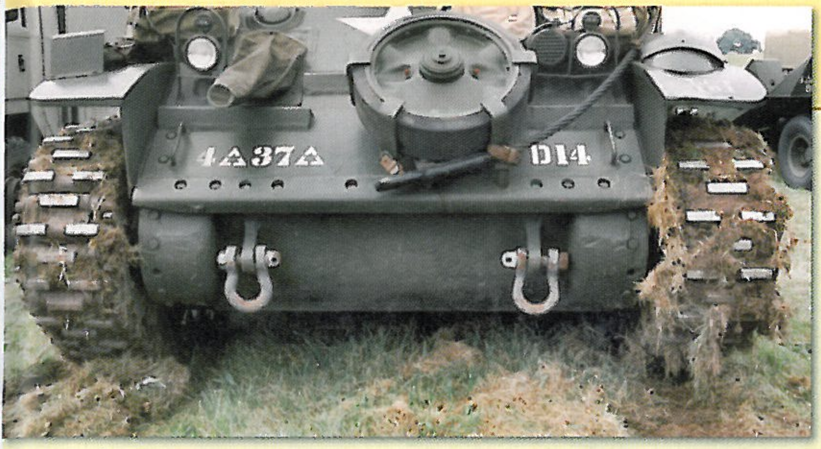


THE REAL DEAL

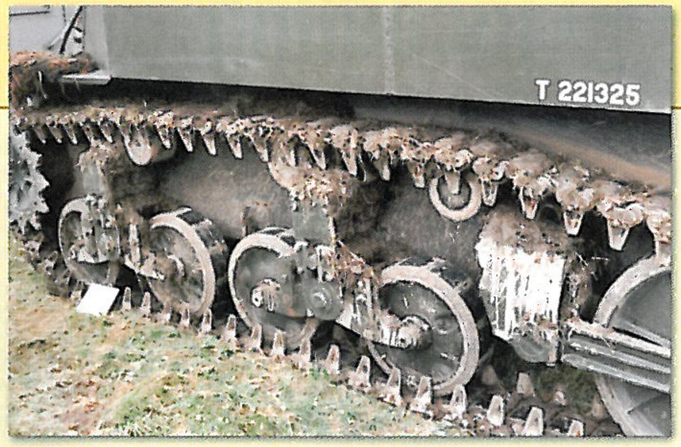
Nothing beats seeing full size hardware in action, so here's a selection of pics of real vehicle tracks in varying states of filth...

▼ This amount of mud and grass had built-up after just two laps around the small area this M5-A1 was being displayed at!



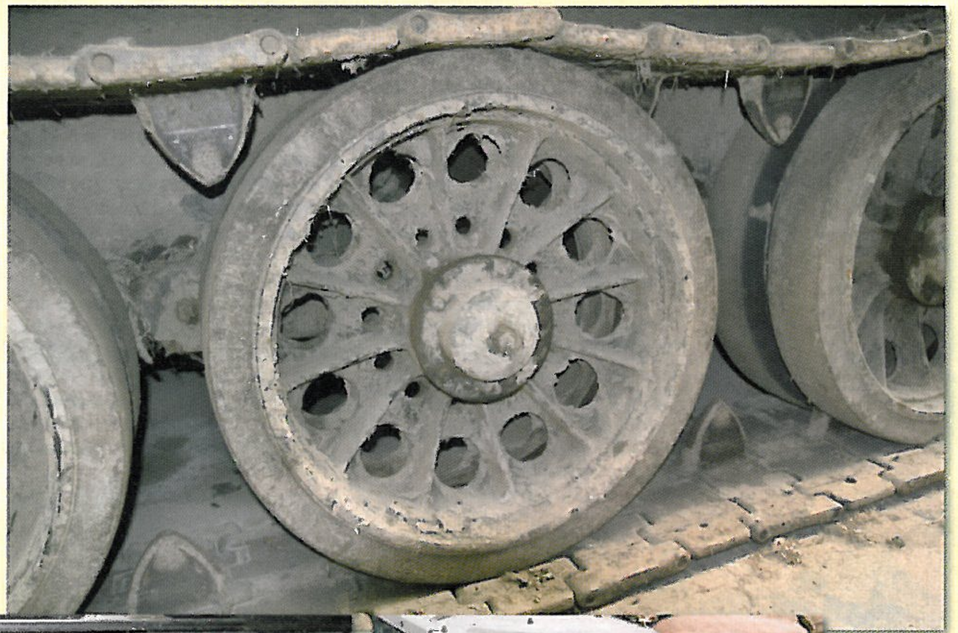


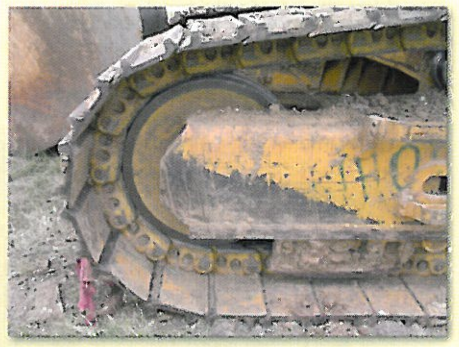
▲ A great shot showing the contrast between the mud and the highly polished cleats, it's interesting to see how one track has shed most of it's mud and the other hasn't. If you do that on your model it will be controversial!



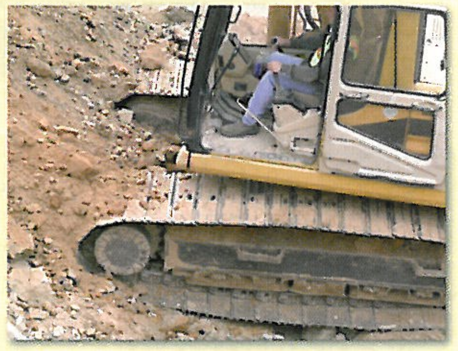
▲ Notice how the mud stuck between the track links has left stripes of mud around each road wheel, this patternation also occurs on Shermans as well.

▼ Good old T-34 wheel showing the darker dirt around the hub where it has been stained by leaking lubricating grease. If you are working on Trumpeter's 1:16 scale version the wear pattern on the guide teeth will be of interest.

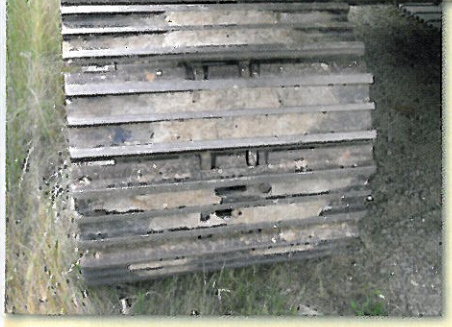




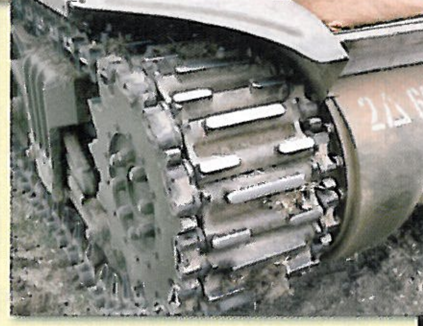
▲ Close-up of the excavator, of interest here is the pink rag that has got caught-up between two links.



▲ We know it's not an armoured vehicle, but the tracks still get dirty.

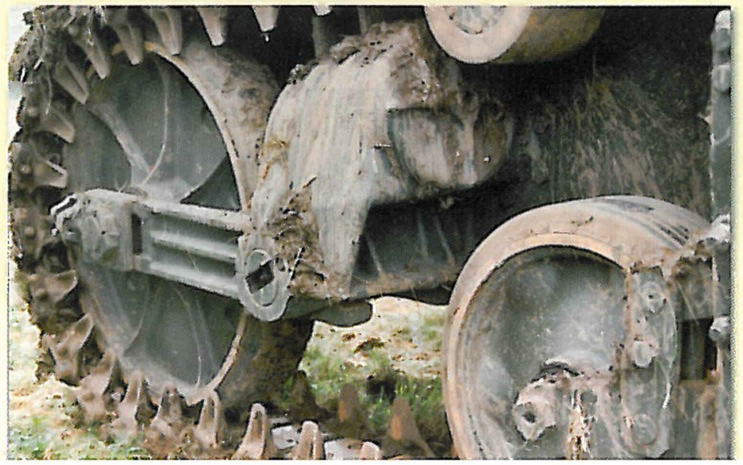


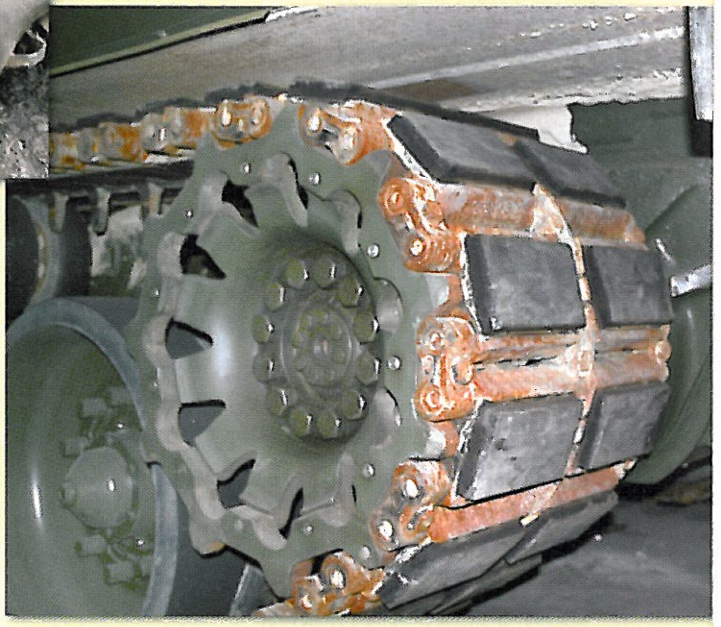
▲ This is interesting how the compacted and dried mud has only remained in the centre of each link.



▲ 3 bar cleat this time on an M4 showing how polished these get even from running on soft ground.

▼ Note the distinct splash marks of mud on the hull side, idler support casting and roadwheel disc.





▲ A typical modern style track, this time from a Challenger I showing pristine rubber track pads yet heavily rusted metal links. Also of interest is the oily sheen around the central hub bolts.

Incoming

TAMIYA

1:48 SDKFZ171 PANTHER G
ITEM NO.32520

This will surely be a favourite amongst the growing fans of 1:48 armour. As with the Panzer IV J this is basically a scaled down version of the 1:35 scale version.
The model is broken down into approximately 180 parts in the familiar beige coloured plastic. Not forgetting the obligatory die-cast lower hull, I'm not a great lover of these but they certainly give some weight and feel to it. There are parts provided to build either the early or late variants of the Ausf G. These include the early, and late chin style mantlet. Both standard and the late flame damped exhaust systems are included, as well as the raised fan cover incorporating the crew heater for the engine deck. There are four decal options included.

1/48
PANTHER TYPE G
TAMIYA

Sd.Kfz.251 Ausf.C
1:72
DRAGON

Sd.Kfz.165 HUMMEL
EARLY VERSION
DRAGON

DRAGON

1:72 ARMOUR PRO - SDKFZ 251 AUSF C ITEM NO.7223
AND SDKFZ 165 HUMMEL ITEM NO.7244

The kits come very well packaged in eye-catching boxes that give clues to the quality product contained therein. All sprues are, in the main, individually bagged and the smaller parts; decals, tracks and etched brass (yes, etched brass!) are backed with card ensuring no damaged or lost pieces. The instruction sheets are very clear with coloured, 4 aspect views of the various camouflage/markings schemes (7 in the case of the 251 and 5 for the Hummel).
The level of detail in both kits has to be seen to be believed. Each comprises some 140 parts with a small-etched brass fret. Additionally for the Hummel, there is a fine metal aerial and metal spare road wheel racks. The tracks are of the 'rubber band' variety but well detailed nevertheless in keeping with the rest of the kit. Individual personal weapons and tools are there all beautifully reproduced. The running gear for both kits would put many a 1/35 kit to shame and there are some novel practical touches - road wheels and return rollers cast in groups or pairs, separate hubs (for the Hummel) etc. I could go on and on but suffice to say, I do not see how anyone could be disappointed with any aspect of this kit.
Dragon has taken 1:72 scale armour modelling to new heights - superb.
Buy them - even if WWII German vehicles are not your thing!!
Paul Egerton

54cm MÖRSER KARL 041 w/MUNITIONSPANZER IV ausf. F
GERMAN ARMY SELF-PROPELLED GUN
54cm 自走臼砲 カール w/IV号特殊弾薬運搬車
1:72 SCALE KIT
Hasegawa

HASEGAWA

1:72 54CM MORSER KARL WITH MUNITIONSPANZER IV
ITEM NO.31156

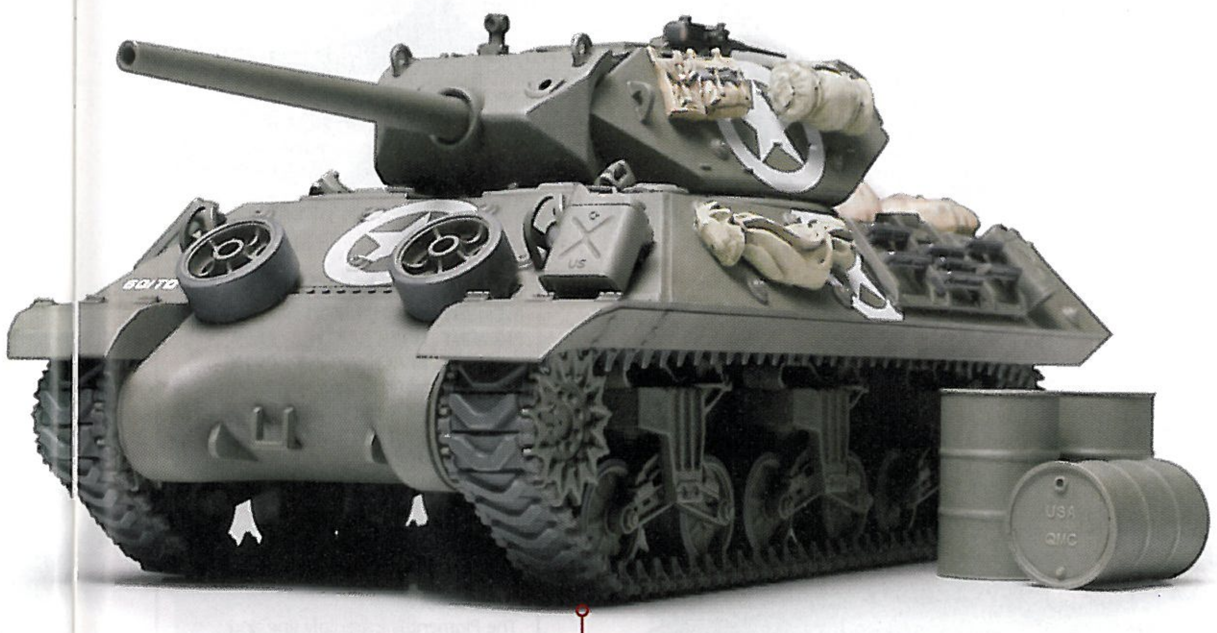
A well-filled box of parts for the mortar, PzIV munitions carrier and no less than 24 figures. Detail is quite good after what looks to have been some reworking of the original kit, but perhaps not quite up to the standard of some of the latest offerings in 1:72 scale. Tracks are of the 'rubber band' variety but acceptable nonetheless. Not surprisingly, a 'from the box' build allows one suspension position only. Nevertheless, a very busy diorama can be constructed and you do get a lot of kit for your money. Definitely one for those put off by the size (and cost) of the Trumpeter and Dragon behemoths but wanting an example in their collection.
Paul Egerton

BRITISH 25PDR. FIELD GUN & QUAD GUN TRACTOR CANADIAN FORD F.G.T.
1:35 MILITARY MINIATURES SERIES NO.44
TAMIYA

TAMIYA

1:35 BRITISH 25PDR. FIELD GUN &
QUAD GUN TRACTOR
ITEM NO.35044

An Absolute classic from Tamiya. It may be long in the tooth but this oldie is still a goody. Basic by today's standards, but with some tender loving care and maybe a make over with an Eduard brass set can be turned into a real gem.



U.S. TANK DESTROYER M10 MID PRODUCTION
1/48
TAMIYA

TAMIYA

1:48 US TANK DESTROYER M10 MID PRODUCTION
ITEM NO.32519

240 parts and the standard Die-cast lower hull make up this new kit. The injection parts are moulded in Tamiya's familiar Olive drab plastic. The kit displays a nice level of detail I particularly like the way the weld seams had been dealt with. A common problem among Tamiya's M4 based vehicles is that the sponsons are not blanked off, this is readily apparent on the finished model. The T48 rubber chevron tracks are nicely rendered. These are in link and length form. A thoughtful inclusion a sprue from the Allied Jerry Can set, this set also includes bedrolls to help stowing up your M10.

Coming Soon...

Tamiya 1:48
SU-122 Soviet tank destroyer
Cromwell British cruiser tank
Soviet KV-2
WW2 British Infantry

1/48
RUSSIAN TANK DESTROYER SU122

Verlinden Productions 1:35
US Tank Crew Iraq
US Tankers Iraq
Building Blocks/Street Paving

Verlinden Productions 1:48
Tankers at Rest
German Farm House
PzIV Interior
Bren Carrier Stowage

Plus Model 1:35
Beer Bottles and Crates
Gaz 61-73
Maxim Quad

Mig Productions 1:72
Cromwell tank crew

MIG productions

World War Two Productions 1:35
Sturer Emil track

Think One Eighty 1:35
Arab Farmer

Dust Game 1:35
Raketentruppen 1946

And the rumours...

Tamiya 1:35 Chars B?

Revell
Kamov Ka-52 "ALLIGATOR"
1:72
04483

REVELL

1:72 KAMOV KA-52 ALLIGATOR BATTLEFIELD HELICOPTER
ITEM NO.04483

An unusual and interesting choice of subject in that this is a sole prototype/development airframe. However, with its contra-rotating main rotors, side-by-side seating for the two man crew, lack of tail rotor and certain fixed wing characteristics, it is certainly different! The kit, in the standard Revell end-opening box, consists of over 140 parts, well moulded and with finely engraved panel lines. Detail is good and a quality decal sheet is included. The cockpit and rotor head assembly are particularly good for this size of helicopter in this scale.
Well worth adding to any helicopter collection.

Paul Edgerton

TAMIYA

1:48 SDKFZ161/2 PANZERKAMPFWAGEN IV
ITEM NO.32518

The kit is in some 180 parts including a die-cast lower hull as per all of Tamiya previous 1:48 scale AFV's. Decal options are supplied for three vehicles. This only includes Balkenkreuz and numbers, no unit markings are given at all. No schurtzen skirts are included and the kit only provides the armour for the turret and the rails for the hull. What is included on the instructions is a template to make your own from your chosen material. The instructions recommend using .03 millimetre Plasticard. It does however state that in reality these plates would scale down to .01 mm in 1:48 this would be too flimsy to be practical.

TAMIYA
1/48
Panzerkampfwagen IV Ausf.J Sd.Kfz.161/2

P005
Copper Rust
P010
Black Smoke
P009
Dark-Earth
COLOUR FOR MODELING
PIGMENT
MODELARSKI
Mirage

Mirage Hobby

PIGMENT	**COPPER RUST**	**P005**
PIGMENT	**DARK EARTH**	**P009**
PIGMENT	**BLACK SMOKE**	**P010**

These are the first pigments I have seen from Mirage and I must say I am really impressed by them, they come in a decent sized 40ml tub larger than many of the other brands.

But the most important question is what are they like to work with and how fine is the actual pigment? Having given them a test I can say they as good as any I have used.

The Pigment is incredibly fine and adheres very well to the surfaces it is applied to. A simple test I tend to use to check out how good a pigment is to rub them between my thumb and forefinger, if there is no gritty feel it's a good sign, secondly if you need to scrub your fingers to get rid of the ingrained pigment it will give a good indication of their sticking power and I'm pleased to say these Mirage pigments passed with flying colours. Highly recommended.

ABER
35L-36
35L-46
35L-47

ABER

35L-46 GERMAN 75MM BARREL FOR KWK 40 L/48

With early model muzzle brake for Panzer IV Ausf. G late -Ausf H

35L-47 GERMAN 75MM BARREL FOR KWK 40 L/48 PANZER IV AUSF. H LATE -AUSF. J TO FIT TAMIYA KIT

35L-48 GERMAN 75MM BARREL FOR KWK 40 L/48 PANZER IV AUSF. J LATE -AUSF. J FINAL TO FIT TAMIYA KIT.

35L-36 GERMAN 75MM BARREL FOR KWK 42 L/70 GUN BARREL FOR PANTHER AUSF G LATE. TO FIT TAMIYA.

35143 ETCHED DETAIL SET FOR THE TAMIYA KV-1 VOL 1

35144 KV-1 OR KV-II VOL 2 FENDERS FOR EARLY MODEL

35145 KV-1 OR KV-II VOL 3 TOOLBOXES

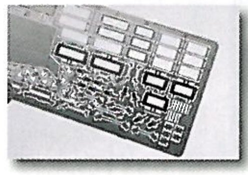
35146 KV-1 OR KV-II VOL 4 FENDERS LATE MODEL

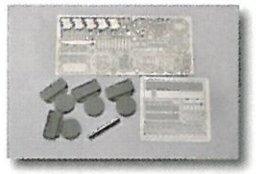
35147 KV-1 OR KV-II TOOL BOXES FOR LATE STYLE FENDERS

35 A100 ADDITIONAL AMOUR FOR U.S. TANK DESTROYER M10

35142 VISION PORTS FOR SDKFZ 234 ARMOURED CARS

35152 VOL 2 INTERIOR SET TO FIT ACADEMY U.S. TANK DESTROYER M10





ABER
35 152
M-10

ABER
35 145
KV-I or KV-II

50 Years of Revell
The World in Your Hands

LEADING THE WAY IN 1:72 SCALE MILITARY MODELLING

Humvee
Challenger 1 MK3
Boeing MH-47E

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1:72 Scale/Length 6.3cm
The Humvee (High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle) completely redefined the standards of light military vehicles in the mid 80's due to its power, mobility and versatility.

Challenger 1 MK3 KFOR 03120
1:72 Scale/Length 15.5cm
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Boeing MH-47E Chinook 04480
1:72 Scale/Length 27.2cm
This special version of the long-range transport helicopter has tandem mounted rotor blades and a top speed of 286km/h.

Available from MODELZONE and all good model stockists.

Revell

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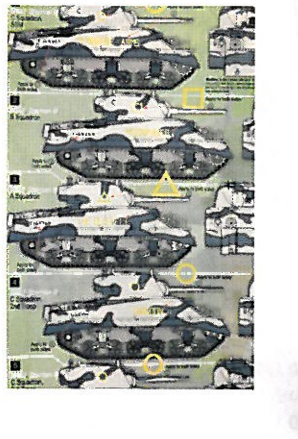
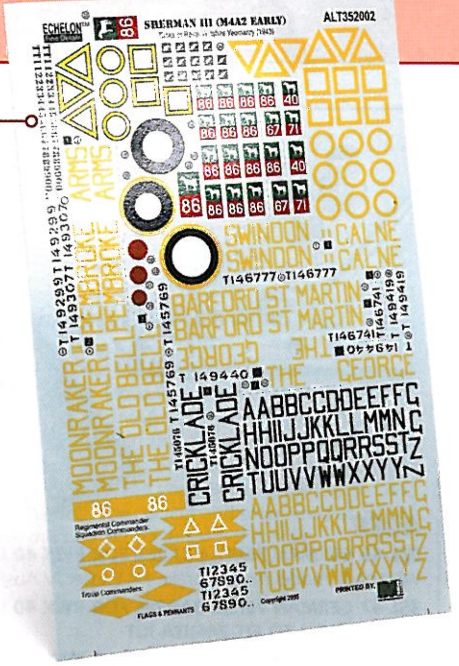




Echelon Fine Details

M4A2 MEDIUM TANK SHERMAN III
ITEM NO.ALT352002

This latest set from Echelon covers markings seen on British Sherman III's operating in Syria (1943) with the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry. Decals are provided for 8 specific vehicles 7 of which are M4A2's in the familiar light mud and blue/black scheme. The eighth vehicle depicted is actually an M4A1 named Cricklade in the desert pink and dark green camouflage pattern. The sheet also includes a decent selection of generic marking making this set great value for money. Having used echelon decals on previous models I can testify to their excellent quality. These decals like all waterslide types, need to be applied to a gloss finish and react very well to setting solutions, helping them snuggle down for that all important painted on look.

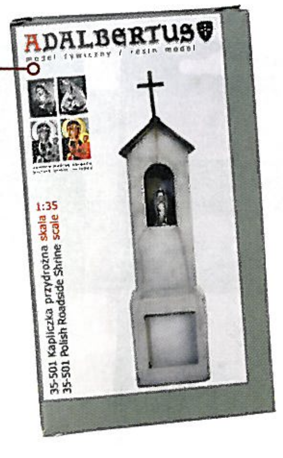
In my time I have built more than a couple of Sherman's and every time I finish one I vow it will be my last. But having seen the inspirational artwork and the meticulous reference research covering details such as what wheel pattern, mantlet shape and transmission housing type, to name a few each vehicle was fitted with. It is good to see echelon leading the way in offering Aircraft style decal sheets that include comprehensive background information as well. Highly recommended.

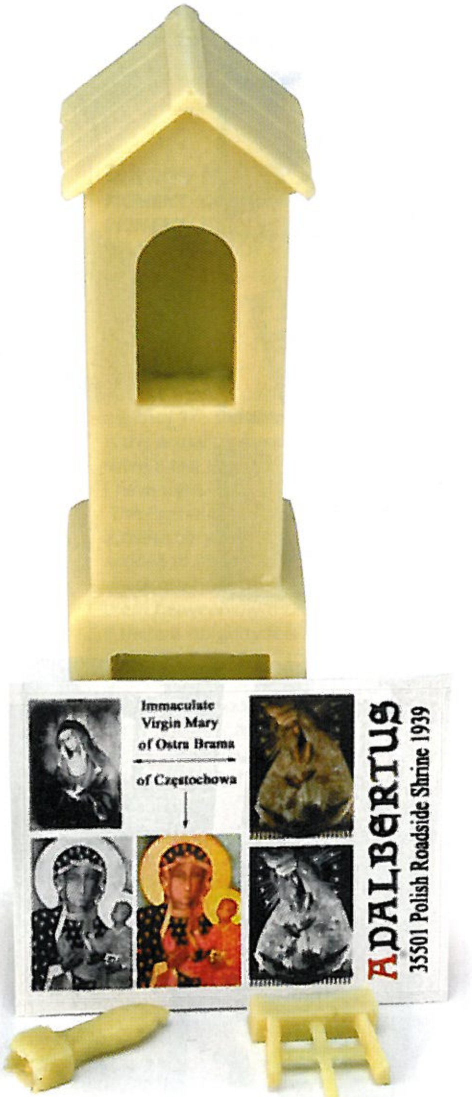
Revell

M1A2 ABRAMS
ITEM NO.03146

The M1A2 is up to Revell's usual high standard, there are some beautiful details incorporated into the mouldings, my favourite being the well rendered anti-slip coating on all the appropriate surfaces. The only niggle I did have with the kit was with the tracks, the type provided is the chevron style most often associated with the original M1 fitted with the 105 mm gun. The tracks most commonly seen on these later tanks should be the "Bigfoot" track with the large square pads. With the tracks aside, Revell have produced a great little replica of this topical vehicle.

Revell
M1 A2 Abrams
1:72
Plastik-Modellbausatz
Plastic modelkit
Modèle réduit
Modelbouwdoos
14,0 cm
03146




Immaculate Virgin Mary of Ostra Brama
of Częstochowa
ADALBERTUS
35501 Polish Roadside Shrine 1939

Adalbertus

POLISH ROADSIDE SHRINE 1:35
ITEM NO.35-501
SIEGFRIED LINE OBSTACLES DRAGON TEETH 1:48
KIT NO.48-502

Adalbertus are a new company from Poland producing a range of figures stowage sets and diorama accessories in 1:48, 1:35 and 1:16 scale. From these first samples we have received look to be very promising. The resin parts are cleanly cast with no air bubbles or distortion. Included in both sets is a useful little instruction sheet giving building and painting tips, together with some background information make up these well presented sets and we look forward to seeing more from Adalbertus.

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12301 1945 Road to Berlin German & Russian infy, British & US paras, Quad & 25lb gun, T34, Stug III, M4 Sherman, Command Post in Ruins & Pontoon Bridge £38.99 **£19.50**
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2098 P51D/K Mustang (RAF/Swede) £4.99 **£2.50**
5111G 1/48 Red Arrows Hawk Set w/paint, glue etc £10.99 **£7**
3146G 1/72 Red Arrows Hawk & Gnat Set w/paint, glue etc £9.99 **£6**
01023 1/72 Auster Antarctic £3.99 **£2**
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93025 1/72 Army Lynx set w/paint, glue etc £9.99 **£5**
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98666 1/144 Concorde set w/paints etc £19.99 **£10**
20001 Bae Sea Harrier FRS-1 1/24 £74.99 **£37.50**
14003 N.A. P-51K Mustang 1/24 RAF/RCAF £44.99 **£22.50**
12002 1/24 Messerschmitt Bf109E £38.99 **£19.50**
9441 Dennis Fire Engine & Old Bill Bus £24.99 **£12.50**
20440 1/12 Bentley 4.5 litre £74.99 **£34.50**
7112 1/48 Mosquito B XVI/ PR XVI £16.99 **£8.50**
5026 Lockheed F-117A Stealth £10.99 **£5.50**

8673 1/72 History of the RAF RE8, Hawker Demon, Spitfire XVI, Fairey Battle, Gloster Javelin, Harrier GR5 Inc. paints & glue ~~£29.99~~ **£23**
6101 Spitfire F22 / 24 1/48 £14.99 **£7.50**
5112 Bae Hawk 100 1/48 £10.99 **£5.50**
5033 F117A Stealth "Have Blue" £10.99 **£5.50**
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4039 Harrier GR7 £9.99 **£5**
4032 McDD F-18 Hornet 1/72 £9.99 **£5**
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Revell 4575 1/32 AH64 Apache ~~£24.99~~ **£12**

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10010 1/48 Frontline Fighters Tornado E/F3 & Jaguar GR3A/ES w/paints, brush & glue ~~£19.99~~ **£15**
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9004 1/72 Hercules Gunship £24.99 **£12.50**
9175 1/48 Panavia Tornado F3 £24.99 **£12.50**
8105 1/48 Panavia Tornado GR4/4A £24.99 **£12.50**
8174 Boeing 747 £19.99 **£10**
97111 1/48 Mosquito NF30 Starter set w/paints, glue etc; £19.99 **£10**
07104 1/48 Sepecat Jaguar GR3 £16.99 **£8.50**
4025 1/72 F16 £9.99 **£5**
3030 Ju87 Stuka £6.99 **£3.50**
3183 Pan Am Boeing 727 £6.99 **£3.50**

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9171 1/144 SRN4 Hovercraft £24.99 **£12.50**
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Glossary

Accelerator
A liquid used to speed up the curing time for cyanoacrylate glue. Gives near instant setting time, but the joints can be weaker.

Acrylic Paint
A water/alcohol based emulsion paint. Has become very popular over the past few years, less harmful than enamels when used for spraying. Their fast drying time and being impervious makes them ideal for the impatient modeller who doesn't want to have to wait days before applying filters or washes.

Balkenkreuz
German for Balkan Cross. The national recognition insignia used by the German Forces of World War II.

Colour washes
The technique where enamel paint or oil paint is thinned heavily with white spirits, pure turpentine, or enamel thinners, this can then be washed over the model to help accentuate surface detail or simulate dust depending on whether light or dark colours are used. This technique will be seen in one form or another on virtually all models featured in MMI.

Cyanoacrylate
The correct name for Superglue, Crazy Glue etc. Bonds virtually any materials together including skin! Virtually instant bonding time.

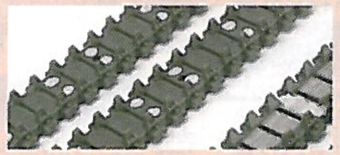
Decal
The general term used to describe the two-dimensional marking for application to a model surface. Waterslide and dry-rub are the two most commonly used types in modelling.

Dental Burr
The drill tips used by dentists, or more accurately jewellers burrs. These come in many different shapes. Best used in a mini drill system for adding texture to armour or removing excess material and many uses.

Drybrushing
A commonly used technique to enhance raised details of highlights by gently flicking the brush over the subject's surface. Best used with a flat profile brush with only a tiny amount of paint remaining on the brush.

Dry transfer decal
Letraset style marking that is rubbed on to the model surface from a sheet using blunt instrument i.e. a pencil or Mission Models Multi Tool. These transfers are pressure sensitive and self-adhesive and don't require a gloss surface prior to application.

Ejector pin marks
The small circular indentations usually found on the inner faces of kit parts. This is a result of the metal pins that are needed to force the newly moulded parts from the moulding machine. Some companies such as Dragon are using slide moulds this eliminates this problem.



Enamel paint
This word is synonymous with spirit based scale modelling paints, and Humbrol are the best-known manufacturer. These paints are superb for brush painting due to their first coat good coverage.

Epoxy
A range of glues and fillers that come in two parts. When mixed they harden in anywhere from 5 minutes to 24 hours. Generally the longer the setting time the stronger the bond. Even the 5-minute types will have a stronger bond than superglues.

Filter
A way of changing the overall hue of a model's base colour, or toning down multi coloured camouflage colour schemes, by using either one of the new dedicated (filter) washes or by applying a very thin mix of an appropriate shade of Humbrol enamel and thinners.

Flash
Thin fillets of plastic or resin surrounding parts. Caused by moulds that are worn or haven't sealed properly allowing the molten plastic or liquid resin to escape and flow between the two halves of the mould.

Grandt Line
US manufacturer of tiny bolt head, hex nuts and washers etc., originally intended for model railways but extremely useful for superdetailing armour models.

Isopropanol
A type of mild alcohol commonly used as a de-greasing agent on electrical components before soldering. Ideal for thinning water based acrylic paints.

Johnsons' Klear
A domestic acrylic floor varnish with several modelling uses, the most common being a pre-decalling gloss coat.

SC Johnson wax
Klear

Masking Fluid
Maskol is a trade name commonly used when referring to this medium. A latex based fluid for recreating hard-edged colour schemes with an airbrush, also ideal for masking glazed parts whilst painting is in progress.

Milliput
Trade name of two-part epoxy putty perfect for modelling use, sculpting, making sandbags etc.

Mould seam
A fine raised line that runs around an injection moulded component as a result of two halves of the moulding tool.

Notek
A Czechoslovakian manufacturer of a distinctive low visibility headlight used on many German AFVs during World War II

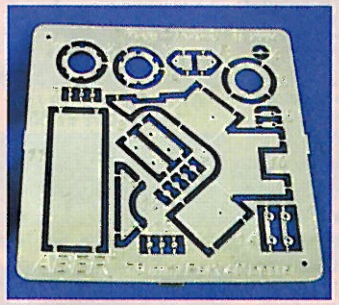
Oil paint
Artists painting medium with many modelling uses. Figure painting and colour washes and drybrushing are just a few.

Olfa P-Cutter
Trade name for a handy tool that can be used to cut fine grooves into plastic or resin for panel lines etc. Safer for cutting thick plastic card than a scalpel.

Particle mask
Fibre mask worn over the mouth and nose to prevent the ingress of dust. Will not protect against vapour hazards though. A must when sanding resin etc.

Pastel
A soft chalk-based artists material, normally comes in stick form and in many colours. Great for weathering AFVs.

Photo-etching
A chemical process for cutting through thin sheets of metal, usually in brass, copper or stainless steel to make photo-etched details sets.



Pigments
A form of ultra fine grained pastel powder, marketed specifically at the armour modeller. From companies like Mig Productions, MMP and CMK to name a few, these powders have almost become mandatory for weathering vehicle models.

Polyurethane resin
The most common form of resin used to cast detail parts for scale models, and complete kits. The material is poured into a rubber mould as a thin liquid and sets rapidly. Has the ability to replicate fine detail extremely well.

Pre-shading
A popular airbrushing technique to add an artificial depth to a paint finish by first spraying a dark colour around panel lines then thinned light shades are misted on to leave a hint of a shadow.

Primer
An undercoat usually a neutral coloured matt paint is used to form a solid base for a topcoat. Will give a much better adhesion for the topcoat than the bare model material.

PSI
Pounds per Square Inch. The measurement for air pressure developed by compressors.

Punch and die
Specialised tool used to punch out small discs from plastic sheet. Useful for making rivets, bolt heads etc.

PVA
Poly Vinyl Acrylic. A type of water based adhesive, often known as wood glue and white glue.

Pyrograph
A low voltage soldering iron for engraving plastics, useful for replicating welds seams or rivets etc.

Razor saw
Fine-toothed saw to make very thin cuts, an extremely useful tool.

RTV
Room Temperature Vulcanising rubber, a casting medium that is often used to make moulds from master parts to make copies in resin.

Scotchbrite
Brand name of an abrasive pad similar to pan scourers, used for cleaning kit parts and polishing metal prior to priming.

Setting solution
Two chemicals used during waterslide decal application. Part one helps to remove trapped air bubbles; part two softens the decal so it can conform to the surface's shape.

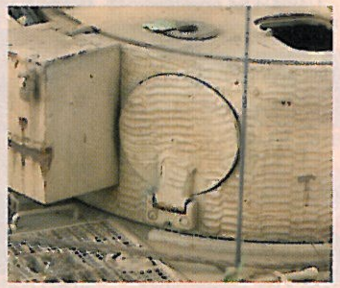
Stretched sprue
Plastic wire formed by heating a section of scrap kit sprue over a flame until floppy, then gently pulling the ends apart until it becomes string like. Hundreds of uses including aerials.

VVSS
Vertical Volute Spring Suspension, used on Sherman Tanks before being superseded by HVSS, Horizontal Volute Spring Suspension

White spirit
Mild spirit solvent used to dilute enamel type paints, and to apply colour washes

Zeltbahn
Camouflaged smock/tent used by German troops during World War II

Zimmerit
Cement based paste with a series of highly distinctive textures, applied to German tanks during World War II to prevent magnetic mines being attached to their vertical surfaces.



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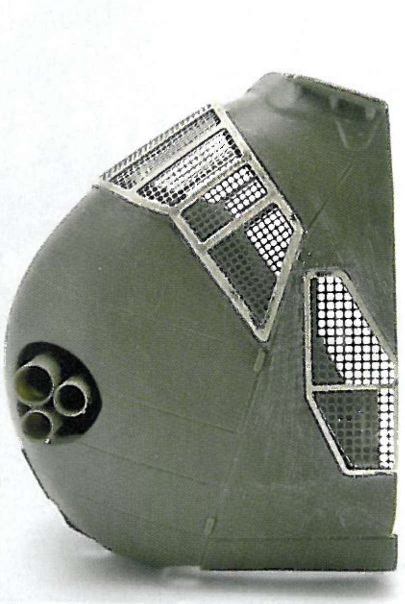
Next Issue - On sale May 4th 2006

IN THE FIRING LINE, PART 2

MMI's Editor describes the construction of a diorama to accommodate his Sherman Firefly from this issue..



CHOCT-AHOLIC!

Italeri's 1:72 Vietnam War H34 Choctaw drops in, complete with a heap of photo-etched hop-ups!

PULLING POWER

Master modeller Phil Stutcinskas joins MMI with his magnificently weathered Sd.Kfz9 'Famo'

GONE FISHING!

Tamiya's Krupp Protze in a bucolic diorama setting - ready to fish?

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

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Tel; +44 (0)1525 222573
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Editorial enquiries;
Tel; +44 (0)1752 341121
Email; editor@modelmilitary.com

Advertising enquiries;
Tel; +44 (0)1525 222573
Email; colin@adhpublishing.com

Subscription enquiries;
Tel; +44 (0)1525 222573
Fax; +44 (0)1525 222574
Email; enquiries@adhpublishing.com

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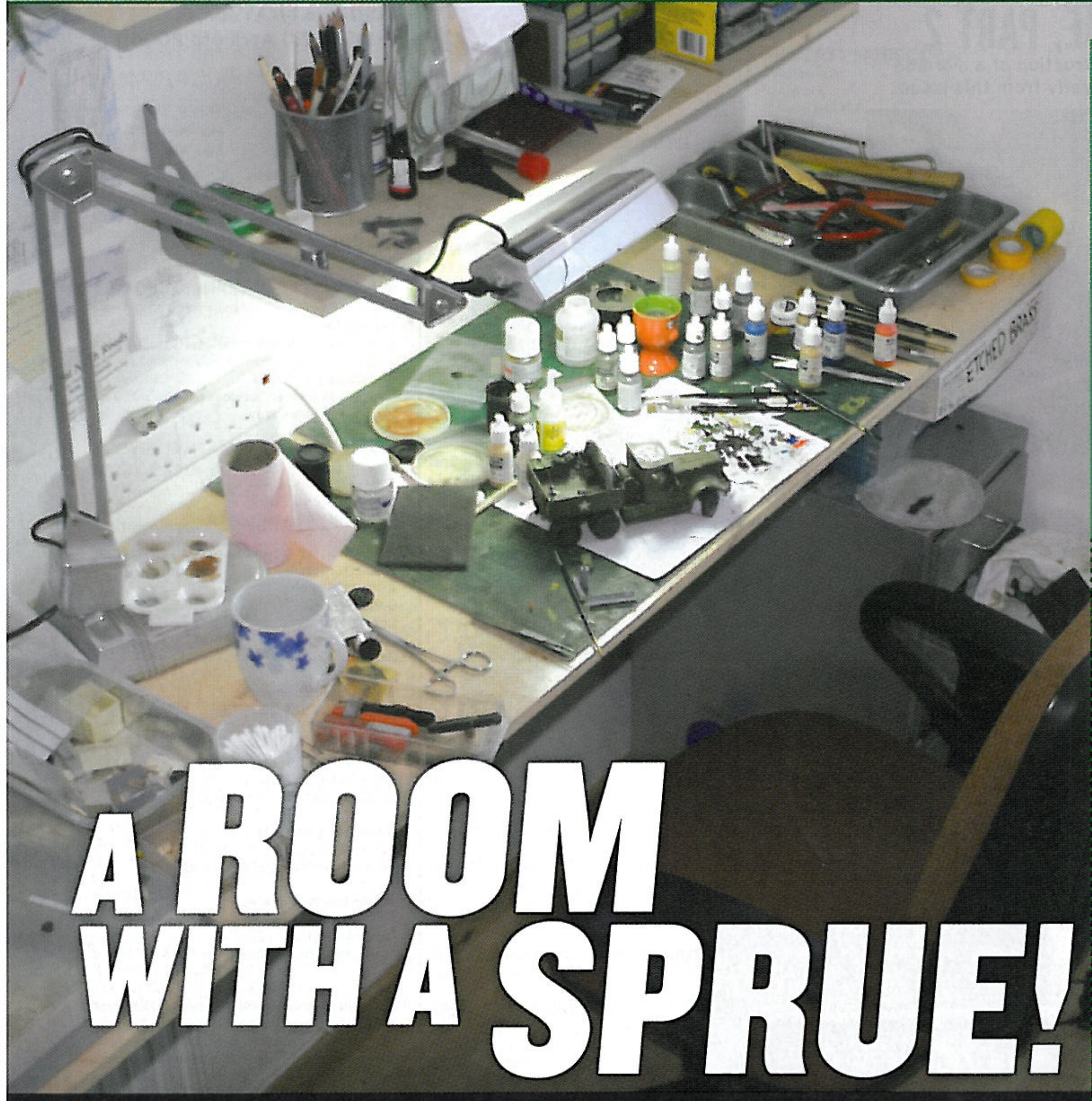
The Last Post...



A ROOM WITH A SPRUE!

Orders from above have decreed I have to write some more for my last word preferably on some form of tool or gadget that has helped with my modelling.
Well to start with I think I will talk about actually having a permanent modelling room.
For the years I was in the services I had to make do with temporary facilities, due manly to the fact I was posted on numerous occasions, in total my family and I have lived in eight different married quarters. My dream during all of these temporary locations was to one day have a dedicated room for my modelling and a study (Ok bookcase!) which I have finally got. The two major advantages have been; That I can leave stuff out that I'm working on and not have to pack away after a modelling session on the dining room table. Secondly and equally important converting the spare room into my workshop, gives me the perfect excuse to not have to put up any relatives when they invite themselves down to sunny Devon for a free holiday! Now I have my ideal set-up with all the space I need and want, there is still one thing that puzzles me and that is why I still end up working in an area the size of a postage stamp? ■

AZUL 71004 BLUE
MODEL Air
AV
vallejo
NEGRO 71057 BLACK
MODEL Air
AV
vallejo

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

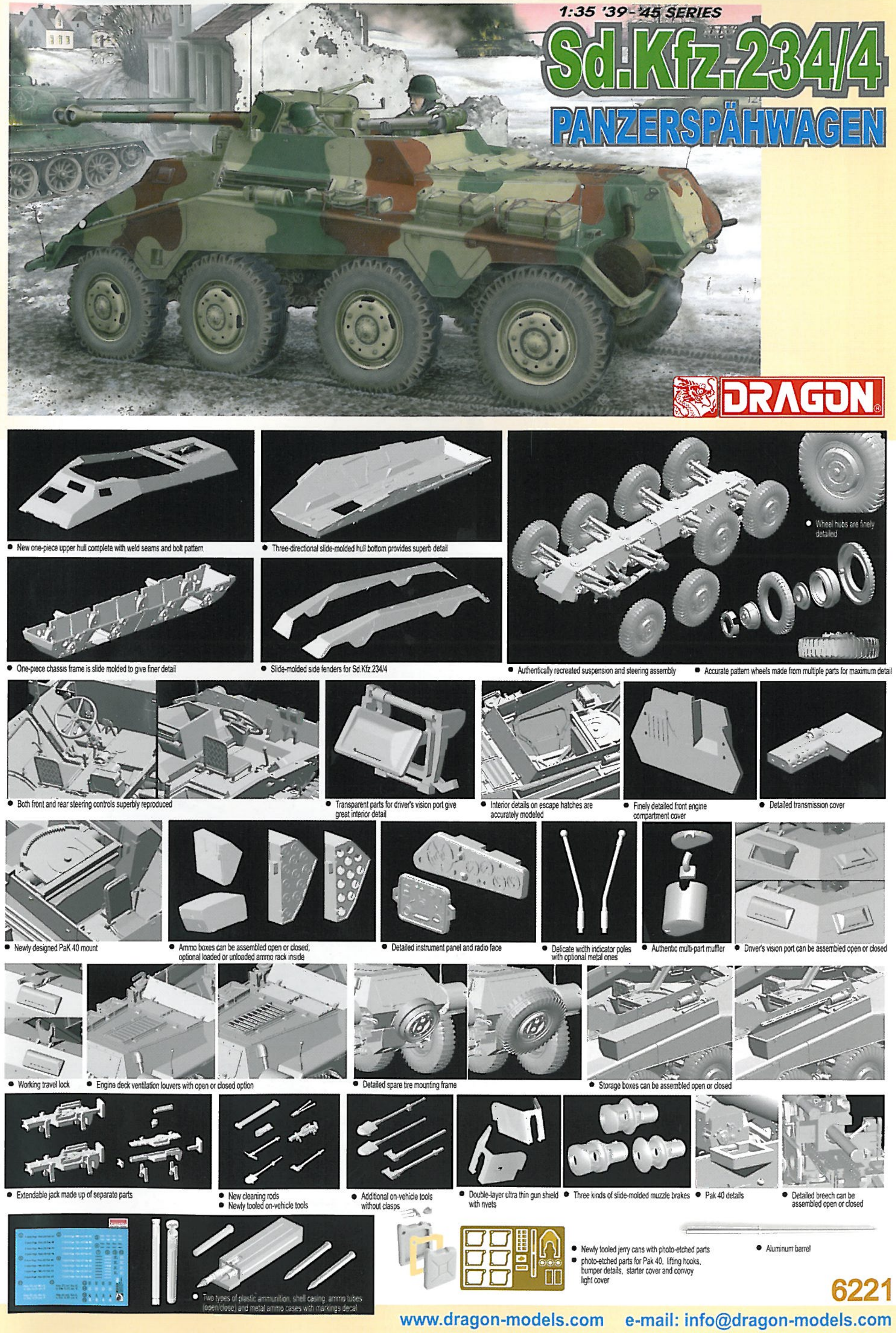
My product of the month has to be the Vallejo range of acrylic paints. These paints have really made a difference to my painting style and the techniques I use. For years I was a staunch believer in using enamel paints to both spray and brush paint my models. But due to increasing pressure from my better half (the wife) about how much I was stinking the house out, by mixing and spraying these paints with cellulose thinners. I decided it would be worth trying out some of those new fangled acrylics. I started out by trying out Tamiya's acrylics. I became hooked on these paints as they sprayed really well and could be thinned cheaply and easily with screen wash. Although the range was rather limited, I soon became adept at mixing up my own colours. This is where Vallejo have come to the rescue by not only producing a bewildering range of colours and best of all they can be thinned with tap water, which keeps the odour to an acceptable level. So as you can see from the accompanying photos of my neat and tidy workbench Vallejo paints are most definitely my paint of choice.
www.creativemodels.co.uk

FINAL THOUGHTS

My final word for this month is to say a big thank you for all the positive comments and the kind words of encouragement I have received for this our new venture Model Military International.
I'm really looking forward to the many projects and features we have got lined up for forthcoming issues of MMI, we will be showcasing work from some very well known modellers as well as some new names to the modelling publications, but who's work is no less informative or spectacular. Personally it has been big change and a steep learning curve for me going from just being a contributor in our sister publication TMMI, to actually editing an entire magazine myself. I have a lot to learn, but with guidance from Marcus Nicholls, all the staff at ADH Publishing and my friend Spencer Pollard who invited me to write for Military in Scale 10 years ago, I hope to produce a magazine for you to enjoy and one that will hopefully help you get the most out of your hobby.

See you next month

Spud



1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
Sd.Kfz.234/4
PANZERSPÄHWAGEN
DRAGON

- New one-piece upper hull complete with weld seams and bolt pattern
- Three-directional slide-molded hull bottom provides superb detail
- Wheel hubs are finely detailed
- One-piece chassis frame is slide molded to give finer detail
- Slide-molded side fenders for Sd.Kfz.234/4
- Authentically recreated suspension and steering assembly
- Accurate pattern wheels made from multiple parts for maximum detail
- Both front and rear steering controls superbly reproduced
- Transparent parts for driver's vision port give great interior detail
- Interior details on escape hatches are accurately modeled
- Finely detailed front engine compartment cover
- Detailed transmission cover
- Newly designed PaK 40 mount
- Ammo boxes can be assembled open or closed; optional loaded or unloaded ammo rack inside
- Detailed instrument panel and radio face
- Delicate width indicator poles with optional metal ones
- Authentic multi-part muffler
- Driver's vision port can be assembled open or closed
- Working travel lock
- Engine deck ventilation louvers with open or closed option
- Detailed spare tire mounting frame
- Storage boxes can be assembled open or closed
- Extendable jack made up of separate parts
- New cleaning rods
- Newly tooled on-vehicle tools
- Additional on-vehicle tools without clasps
- Double-layer ultra thin gun shield with rivets
- Three kinds of slide-molded muzzle brakes
- Pak 40 details
- Detailed breech can be assembled open or closed
- Two types of plastic ammunition, shell casing, ammo tubes (open/close) and metal ammo cases with markings decal
- Newly tooled jerry cans with photo-etched parts
- photo-etched parts for Pak 40, lifting hooks, bumper details, starter cover and convoy light cover
- Aluminum barrel

6221

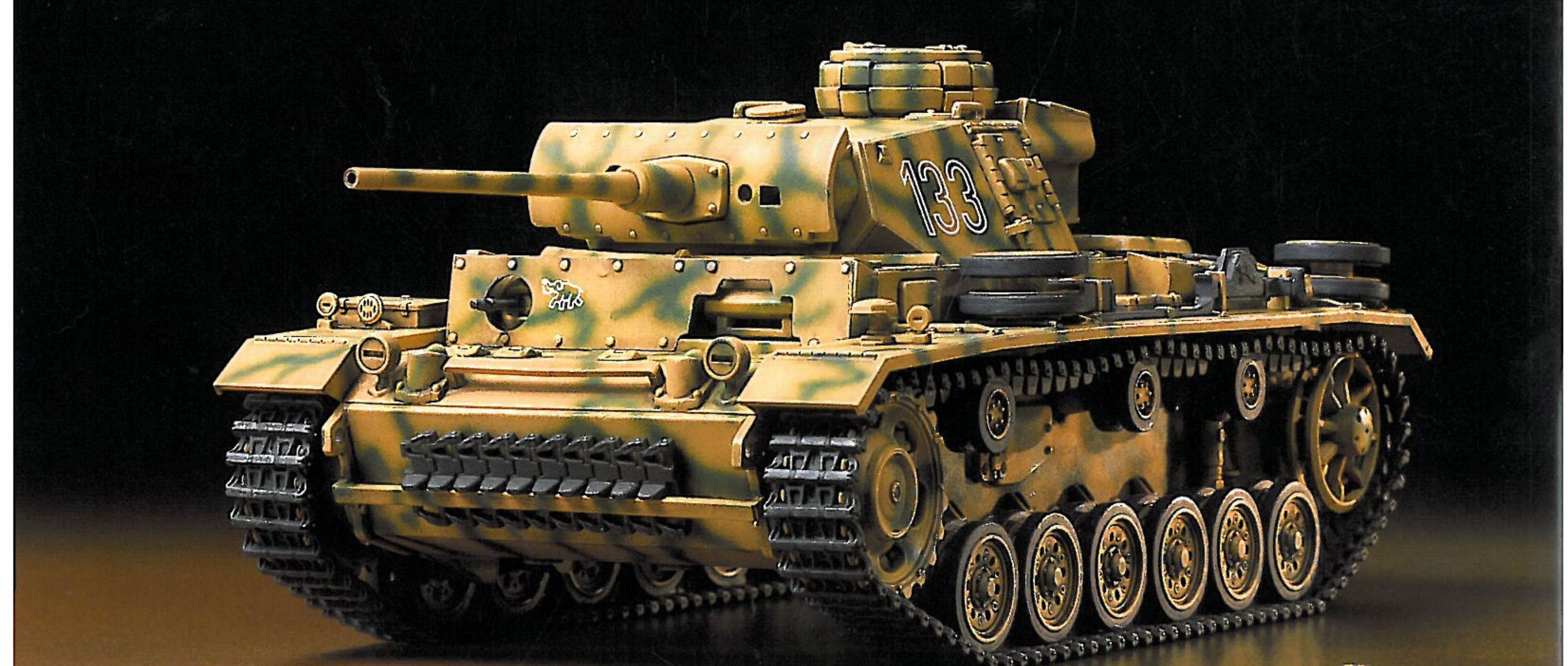
www.dragon-models.com e-mail: info@dragon-models.com
Dragon Kits are distributed in the UK by; The Hobby Company, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG
Dragon models are available from all good model shops

1/48 MM
MILITARY MINIATURE SERIES

HAMMER OF THE WERHMACHT

1/48 GERMAN PANZERKAMPFWAGEN III Ausf.L

(ITEM 32524)



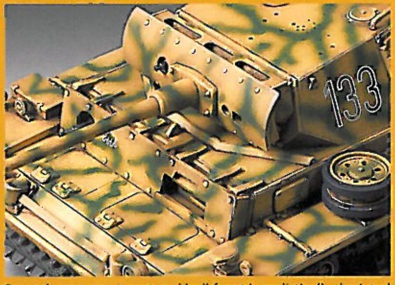
Diecast lower hull gives model satisfying weight and presence.

ABOUT THE GERMAN PANZER III Ausf. L

The Panzer III Ausf.L was introduced in July 1942 as an attempt to improve the tank's survivability in the face of heavily armed T34 and KV tanks encountered on the Russian Front. Armament consisted of an improved, long barreled Kwk50 L/60 tank gun, which was effective against Russian T34 tanks up to a range of 600m, plus two 7.92mm MG34 machine guns. Front armor thickness was increased to 57mm, and 20mm thick spaced armor was added to the front hull and gun mantlet as well. The suspension system was strengthened to cope with the 200kg of added weight, and other modifications were made to ensure smooth engine operation in extreme weather conditions. A total of 635 Ausf.L tanks were produced by the end of 1942, many seeing active service on the Eastern and North African Fronts.

ABOUT THE MODEL

This scaled-down version of the 1/48 Panzer III Ausf.L features masterful detail in a compact package. The tank's L/60 cannon is accurately depicted, together with impressive reproduction of the spaced armor panels added to the turret and hull front. Further exquisite detailing, which is amazingly simple to assemble, includes spare track roller wheels and miscellaneous equipment mounted onto the hull. This model includes separate parts to depict hull-side escape hatches and shot deflector below the gun mantlet, features that were dropped from later versions of the Ausf.L. Assembly type treads even capture realistic slackness of the upper track section. Kit includes 3 sets of markings to depict units including the sPzAbt 502 serving in Russia and the 10th Panzer Division in Tunisia.



Spaced armor on turret and hull front is realistically depicted

1/48 MM SERIES LINEUP

Offering an incredibly wide variety of choices, including tanks, light armor and support vehicles of both Axis and Allied forces. Although small in size, these models accurately capture the details of the full size vehicles. Add figures and accessories to create your own large scale desktop battle scenes.

GERMAN TIGER I EARLY PRODUCTION (32504)

M4 SHERMAN EARLY PRODUCTION (32505)

GERMAN STURMGESCHÜTZ III Ausf.B (32507)

GERMAN TANK DESTROYER HETZER MID PRODUCTION (32511)

RUSSIAN TANK T34/76 MODEL 1941 (CAST TURRET) (32515)

GERMAN PANZERKAMPFWAGEN IV Ausf.J (32518)

U.S. TANK DESTROYER M10 (MID PRODUCTION) (32519)

GERMAN PANTHER TYPE G (32520)

GERMAN TANK DESTROYER JAGDPANTHER LATE VERSION (32522)

U.S. MEDIUM TANK M4A1 SHERMAN (32523)

The 1/48 MM Series continues to grow, with a number of new items planned for release over the coming months. Watch this space for more information!

TAMIYA

TAMIYA, INC.
3-7 ONDAWARA, SURUGA-KU,
SHIZUOKA 422-8610 JAPAN